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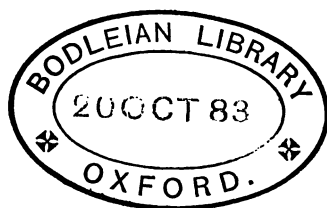
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# CONTENTS

## ASIA.

### CHAPTER I.

Asia—General Features—Climate . . . . . Pages 551-553

### CHAPTER II.

Asiatic Turkey—Asia Minor—Islands—Armenia and Mesopotamia—Syria and Palestine . . . . . 553-570

### CHAPTER III.

Arabia . . . . . 570-575

### CHAPTER IV.

Persia . . . . . 575-580

### CHAPTER V.

Beloochistan . . . . . 580-582

### CHAPTER VI.

Afghanistan . . . . . 582-586

### CHAPTER VII.

Independent Turkestan . . . . . 587-589

### CHAPTER VIII.

Russian Asia—Russian Turkestan—Siberia—Kamschatka—Saghalien . . . . . 589-602

### CHAPTER IX.

Japan—Loo-Chow Islands . . . . . 603-608

### CHAPTER X.

The Chinese Empire—China Proper—Korea—Mantchuria—Mongolia—Zungaria—Eastern Turkestan—Tibet 608-627

### CHAPTER XI.

Burmah . . . . . 627-630

## CHAPTER XII.

Siam—Siamese Malacca—Annam—Cambodia—Lower Cochin  
China . . . . . Pages 630-637

## CHAPTER XIII.

The Malay Archipelago—Philippine Islands—Micronesia—  
Melanesia—Polynesia . . . . . 637-646

*AFRICA.*

## CHAPTER I.

General Features . . . . . 649-650

## CHAPTER II.

North Africa—Morocco—Algeria—Tunis—Tripoli—The Sa-  
hara—The Soudan—Egypt—Abyssinia . . . 650-664

## CHAPTER III.

Southern Africa—Zanzibar—Equatorial Lakes—Portuguese  
Possessions on East Coast—Orange Free State—Portu-  
guese Possessions on West Coast—Madagascar. 664-672

*AMERICA.*

## CHAPTER I.

North America—General Features—United States—New Eng-  
land—Atlantic States—States of the Mississippi Basin—  
States of the Pacific Slope—Alaska . . . 675-709

## CHAPTER II.

Mexico—Lower California . . . . . 709-714

## CHAPTER III.

Central America—The Five Republics . . . 714-717

## CHAPTER IV.

West India Islands . . . . . 717-722

## CHAPTER V.

South America—United States of Columbia—Ecuador—Peru—  
Bolivia—Chili—Tierra del Fuego—Argentine Republic—  
*Patagonia*—*Paraguay*—Uruguay—Brazil—Guiana—Vene-  
*zuela* . . . . . 722-750

## MAPS

ASIA	.	.	.	.	.	} - <i>at end of vol.</i>
AFRICA	.	.	.	.	.	
NORTH AMERICA	.	.	.	.	.	
SOUTH AMERICA	.	.	.	.	.	

## ERRATA

Page 604, line 21, for "Jedo" read "Yedo."

Page 609, line 31, for "Manchuria" read "Mantchuria."

Page 615, line 14, for "Pekin" read "Peking."

Page 721, line 22, for "St. Martins" read "St. Martin."

Page 721, line 23, for "St. Bartholomews" read "St. Bartholomew."

Page 723, line 8, for "Xinga" read "Xingu."

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ASIA



# ASIA

## CHAPTER I.

### I. Physical Features.

THE continent of Asia is bounded on the west by Europe and Africa, on the south by the Indian Ocean, on the east by the Pacific, and on the north by the Arctic Ocean. Two-thirds of its surface consists of a plateau, varying from 6,000 to 16,000 feet, with a chain of mountains stretching, with hardly a break, from the Caspian Sea to Behring Straits, which divide the Old World from the New. The central part of this range, called in different places the Thian Shan, the Altai, and the Yablonoi, forms the watershed for the great Siberian rivers, the Obi, the Yenesei, and the Lena, which rise in the Mongolian plateau, and for the Amour, which falls into the Gulf of Tartary. It also contains the sources of numberless other streams, which empty themselves into the lakes or inland seas lying both north and south of the mountains. The most important of these lakes are the Caspian Sea, the Sea of Aral, Lake Balkash, Lake Baikal, Lake Kosgol, and the Lob-nor. A belt of low ground extends all along the west, from the Caspian to the Yenesei, and borders the shores of the Arctic Ocean.

In the extreme north the shores are frozen perpetually to the depth of some hundreds of feet. On the banks of the Siberian rivers the bodies of huge beasts are found, which lived long ages ago, when the earth was very different from what it is now. From these beasts are obtained the ivory tusks, which form one of the chief articles of export in Siberia. South of the mountains is a tableland, ending in the desert of Gobi, or Shamo. To the south this gives place to the tableland of Tibet, which rises 18,000 or 19,000 feet above the sea level, and is bounded by the Kuen Lun, Himalaya, and Yunling mountains, and intersected by the Karakoram range. These mountains are continued further east by the Chinese ranges. In this central plateau rise the great rivers, the Hoang-ho, the Yang-tse-kiang, the Brahmapootra or Sanpu, the Indus, and the Mekhong and Irawadi, the largest rivers of the Siamese peninsula. The east of Asia is broken into a series of peninsulas and islands, with a chain of volcanoes running through them, from Khamschatka to the Malay archipelago. The continent also ends on the south in three peninsulas—Siam, with the smaller Malay peninsula attached to it; India, cut off by the Himalayas, highest of all the mountains in the world, the Bay of Bengal, and the Arabian Sea, from the rest of Asia; and Arabia, which is joined to Africa by the isthmus of Suez. The remainder of the continent is taken up by the highlands of Asia Minor, Persia, and Afghanistan, bounded on the north by the ranges of the Caucasus and Elburz, and on the south by the mountains of Persia, which are divided from the great Syrian desert, stretching as far as Palestine and Arabia, by the valley of the Tigris and the Euphrates.

## 2. Climate.

We shall hereafter consider the climate of each country in detail ; but it may be as well first to note a few general features.

In Siberia north-east winds prevail, and the little rain there is falls only in the summer, which is very hot.

In Central Asia south-west winds blow, and there is a large district, extending from Turkestan to the north of Mongolia, which is almost rainless, the rain having expended itself on the distant mountains. In these countries the extremes of heat and cold are both very great.

South of Tibet the rainfall increases enormously, and it is estimated that India, Siam, and the adjoining islands receive half the rain that falls over the whole of Asia. It is to this cause that we must attribute the fertility of these countries, and their dense population ; for, as a general rule, we shall always find the population thickest where the rainfall is heaviest.

We shall leave the account of the races and of the productions for future considerations.

## CHAPTER II.

### *ASIATIC TURKEY,*

INCLUDING ASIA MINOR, ARMENIA, SYRIA, PALESTINE, MESOPOTAMIA, THE EASTERN COAST OF THE RED SEA, AND PART OF THE WESTERN COAST OF THE PERSIAN GULF.

The inhabitants of Asiatic Turkey are estimated at 16,357,000.

#### ASIA MINOR.

The peninsula lying between the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmora, the Mediterranean, and the Ægean, which

played so great a part in ancient history, is known by the name of Asia Minor, or Lesser Asia. The jagged coast is fringed with islands, and broken into promontories and headlands, each of which was, in the days of the Greeks, crowned with a temple or a monument commemorating a victory. It was on this western shore that the Greeks founded cities, which were flourishing republics when Athens was still in infancy. As the old names are constantly to be met with in history, it may be as well to give a list of them before we proceed to describe the general features of the country.

Mysia, Lydia, Caria, and Ionia were the principal states on the west; while Lycia, Pamphylia, and Cilicia lay on the south coast. North of these were Pisidia, Lycaonia, Cappadocia, Galatia, and Phrygia; and along the Sea of Marmora (or Propontis) and the Euxine (or Black Sea) were Bithynia and Paphlagonia, and Pontus.

The greater part of Asia Minor is now called Anatolia. The centre of Asia Minor is a high tableland, with large salt lakes on its southern edge, and bare downs towards the north. Bithynia and Pontus are fertile, in spite of their mountainous surface, and here myrtle and fruit trees grow luxuriantly. To the east, round about Trebizond in the Old Colchis, the mountains reach 8,000 feet, but get lower between the course of the celebrated river Halys (or Kizil Irmak, which rises in the Anti-Taurus, and falls into the Euxine) and the Sakaria. The ground again rises into the volcanic group of the north-west, where Olympus (6,400) and wooded Ida (5,393) are frequently *covered with snow*. The rivers threading their way

through the mountains into the Egean bring down alluvial deposits, which fertilize the soil; and it was mostly on or near these rivers that the Greeks built their towns. The limestone range of the Great Taurus may be said to begin in Lycia, and, leaving the plains of Pamphylia and Cilicia between it and the sea, it follows the line of the coast, till it merges in Cappadocia into the Anti-Taurus, with the exhausted volcano of Mount Argæus (11,824) at its eastern end. Volcanic rocks prevail chiefly in the centre and east of Asia Minor, and limestone down the west coasts.

### 1. Climate.

The central plateau is cold and dry in the winter, as its climate is unsoftened by the sea breezes. Along the north coast it is foggy, while the west and south are warm and damp.

### 2. Productions.

Oaks, beeches, box, ash, and chesnuts cover the north slopes of the northern ranges; while in the rich valleys medlars, cherries, apples, apricots, and plums grow in profusion. In the south these give place to olives, figs, mulberries, oranges, pomegranates, lemons, almonds, poppies, opium, and a shrub which yields a kind of gum called mastic, which eastern nations love to chew. Vines and tobacco are cultivated among the Taurus valleys, while the villages are surrounded with groves of walnuts. The splendid pine forests, higher up the mountains, are yearly being cut down for the sake of the turpentine. In the warmest corners saffron, mulberries, madder, and cotton plants are all to be found, besides figs and grapes.

The *minerals* are little worked, but Asia Minor con-

tains iron, copper, coal, marble, and silver. Salt is obtained from the lakes.

### 3. Exports.

The silk manufactured at Brusa is exported, also the shawls made from the hair of the Angora goats, the carpets and rugs woven in Phrygia from the wool of the Cilician sheep, and morocco leather and opium. Sponges are found down the *Ægean* coasts, and leeches are sent in great quantities to France and Italy. Smyrna exports the figs and raisins cultivated and dried along the valley of the *Mæander*.

### 4. Animals.

Leopards still exist in the *Taurus*, and wolves, jackals, boars, wild goats, and a sort of small bear, are to be met with in the higher and wilder parts. Buffaloes are the common beasts of burden.

### 5. People.

It is not very easy to trace the descent of the ancient inhabitants of Asia Minor. The tribes on the south-east seem to have been akin to the Syrians; those on the south-west to the Persians; while the Bithynians on the north are said to have sprung from the Thracians. The modern inhabitants are mainly Turks, with a large admixture of Greeks and Armenians, as well as Turkman, Kurd, and Yourouk tribes, all of whom are pastoral.

### 6. History.

As we have said, the Greeks settled early along the west and north coasts, probably before the eighth century B.C., and founded many cities. These small *republics* gradually became swallowed up in the stronger

kingdoms, which soon were formed, and Lycia, with its capital Sardis, was one of the chief of these kingdoms, till it was overthrown, in 546, by Cyrus the Persian, who conquered the whole of Asia Minor. Asia Minor remained Persian till the conquest of Alexander the Great of Macedon, in 333 B.C., and after his death it was divided between his generals—Seleucus, Lysimachus, and Ptolemy. Soon, however, small kingdoms sprung up, each with a history of its own. Attalus, a citizen of Pergamus, in Mysia, erected his native city into a kingdom about B.C. 280, and his dynasty ruled in Pergamus for 150 years, and extended itself, about B.C. 188, over the greater part of Asia Minor. Bithynia, Paphlagonia, and Cappadocia all became independent states, but were eclipsed by the glory of Pontus under Mithridates. These were all annexed to Rome about B.C. 63. Asia Minor continued part of the Roman Empire till the Seljukian branch of the Turks established themselves in the country in 1074, when a large part became subject to the sultan of Roum or Iconium. In the fourteenth century came the great irruption of the Ottoman Turks, and from that time to the present day Asia Minor has been Turkish.

#### 7. Government.

The whole of Asiatic Turkey (including Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, and the coasts of Arabia) is divided into twenty-two provinces, governed by pashas. These are again subdivided.

#### 8. Towns.

The chief towns of Asia Minor are *Angora* (38,000) in the centre, famous for its cats and long-haired goats, and for the battle fought here in 1402, when the

Turkish Sultan Bajazet was defeated and captured by the Tartar Tamerlane. *Scutari* (80,000), on the Bosphorus, just opposite Constantinople, was used as a hospital for the allied soldiers during the Crimean war; and *Brusa* (70,000), once the capital of Bithynia, at the foot of Mount Olympus, is the centre of the silk-weaving trade. Overlooking the Ægean Sea is *Ida*, commanding the plain of Troy, which is watered by the Scamander. South again is *Bergamo*, or Pergamos, on the Karkos. On a branch of the Hermus, which falls in the Gulf of Smyrna, is the old Greek city of Sardis, capital of the king Croesus. *Smyrna* (150,000) is on the gulf of the same name, and exports the dried figs and raisins, and the madder, tobacco, maize, silk, and opium, grown in the river valleys. Sailing down the coast we reach *Ephesus*, once famous for its magnificent temple of the goddess Artemis, or Diana, which has long since been completely covered with soil. Almost every town here is celebrated in Greek history or art; but we have not space to do more than mention *Magnesia*, the scene of a great battle, *Halicarnassus*, and *Tarsus*, on the Cilician coast.

#### 9. Islands.

Fringing the shores of Asia Minor are numerous islands, among which are Lesbos, Scio or Chios, Samos, Patmos, Cos, and Rhodes, the biggest and most important of all.

*Rhodes* is forty-five miles long and eighteen broad. It is hilly and well watered, with an excellent climate, and a soil that produces pomegranates, figs, oranges, vines, vegetables, grains, and even palms. The chief town is *Rhodes* (20,000), on the north-east extremity,

which was fortified by the Knights of St. John, and was embellished for many years by the great Colossus, one of the seven wonders of the world. The Colossus fell in an earthquake in 224 B.C. Rhodes was colonized in early times by the Dorian branch of the Greek race, and, like other Greek states, planted colonies in neighbouring lands. Its support was sought for both by Athens and Sparta, and the island frequently changed sides, till conquered for a while by Alexander the Great. After his death it revolted, and successfully expelled Demetrius Poliorcetes, or the "City Taker," who besieged it in 303 B.C. Later it became subject to Rome till early in the sixth century, when it became for a while Persian territory, and then Mahometan. Rhodes subsequently returned to its allegiance to the empire, and in 1308 was given by the Emperor Manuel to the Knights of St. John, who held out against the Turks till 1532, when they departed and abandoned it. The island is now the residence of the governor or pasha of the Archipelago.

#### ARMENIA AND MESOPOTAMIA.

##### Basins of the Tigris and Euphrates.

Armenia is a mountainous country lying between the Black Sea, Caucasia, and the low plains of Mesopotamia. On the north is the wooded range (averaging 11,000 feet) which divides the vilayets of Trebizond and Erzeroum, and forms the watershed for the streams running into the Black Sea. In the centre the spurs of the Anti-Taurus contain the sources of the Choruk, flowing into the Black Sea; the Aras, flowing into the Caspian; and the Kara Su, or Western Euphrates, flowing into the Persian Gulf. South of Erzeroum is

another range, which splits into two, and culminates towards the eastern frontier in Mount Ararat (nearly 17,000 feet). Among the slopes of this great range, whose crests reach 10,000 or 12,000 feet, is the source of the Eastern Euphrates. Southwards the elevation is constantly diminishing, and the country becomes a tableland, intersected with comparatively low limestone and sandstone ranges, till the depression between the rivers is reached. In the centre of this tableland is Lake Van, with an altitude of 5,000 feet above the sea. It is eighty miles long by thirty broad, and is surrounded by beautiful gardens, and yields both salt and fish. West of Lake Van are some of the sources of the Tigris, which flows south parallel with the Euphrates till they become one, and enter the Persian Gulf. South of Lake Van is the mountainous Kurdistan; and to the south-west, beyond the Tigris, is the Mesopotamian plain, with soil of a sandy clay, which is wonderfully fertile when well watered.

#### History of Armenia.

At the time when Cyrus was reigning in Persia Armenia was a kingdom, ruled by the powerful Tigranes. His dynasty ended with the conquest by Alexander in B.C. 328; and five years later, at the death of Alexander, Armenia was joined to the other dominions of his general, Seleucus. A second kingdom arose about 144 B.C. under Arsaces, King of Parthia, and this lasted till the Roman conquest under Antony, in B.C. 55. Armenia was for a long time a bone of contention between the Roman Empire and the Persians, but it was finally determined to divide it. The Persians ruled Armenia from A.D. 428 to 632, when it

freed itself, and was governed by independent princes till the eleventh century, when, after a short interval of Greek supremacy, it passed into the hands of the Turks.

### History of Mesopotamia.

The history of Mesopotamia, or "between the rivers," is one of the most interesting in the world; for it includes that of the mighty empires of Assyria and Babylonia. As far back as B.C. 2280, we find recorded that the Chaldean kingdom of Ur was conquered by the Elamites, who dwelt in a mountainous country to the east, and made Babylon, on the right bank of the Euphrates, among the rich plains, their capital. This earliest Babylonian Empire endured till the fourteenth century B.C., when it fell a prey to the Assyrians, a race from the hill country to the north; but though subdued, Babylonia remained partly independent till B.C. 740, when it was reduced to the condition of a conquered province. Under Assurbani Pal, literature and art attained their highest development; and many of the sculptures that we now see in the British Museum were executed at this time. After the death of his son, B.C. 625, Babylon shook off the Assyrian yoke, and again rose to power under Nebuchadnezzar. In less than a hundred years, however, it was subdued by the Persians under Cyrus, and remained a Persian province for many centuries. Later, Mesopotamia became Roman territory; and in the seventh century was conquered by the Mahometans, and Bagdad was made the chief seat of the Califate.

#### 1. People.

The larger part of the inhabitants of Armenia and Mesopotamia are *Turks*, but there are also many

*Armenians* (of Iranian race) on the higher lands; *Lazis* (a Caucasian race), on the coast of the Black Sea; *Kurds* (Iranians), a wild and lawless people, east of the Tigris; and *Arabs* (Semitic) all over the south.

### 2. Religion.

With the exception of the Kurds, who profess a corrupt form of Christianity, some members of the Greek Church and some of the Armenian, the inhabitants are Mahometan.

### 3. Climate.

The winter in Armenia is very cold, and the summer very hot, and the rain plentiful; but as we go south we shall find that the winters become shorter and milder, and the summers longer, hotter, and drier. The country, therefore, entirely depends on the canals and tanks, fed by the water drawn from the rivers.

### 4. Productions.

In the Armenian valleys fruit and grain grow abundantly, but the tablelands are bare, often even of grass. In Kurdistan the mountains are covered with forests of oak, walnut, pine, and box, and the soil yields rich grain harvests and fruit crops, as well as tobacco and cotton. Corn was originally brought from the neighbourhood of Anah, a Mesopotamian town on the Euphrates. The soil of South Mesopotamia (or Irak Arabi) consists of a clay which when watered becomes extremely fertile. The ancient Babylonians, aware of this, connected the two rivers by many canals. This part of the country is celebrated for its dates. In the wide plains south of Diabekr are *large flocks of sheep*, and herds of camels and horses.

The hills of the Upper Euphrates yield iron, copper, and marble. Salt is obtained from Lake Van, and naphtha, alum, and sulphur from its neighbourhood. Petroleum and bitumen springs exist in Babylonia.

#### 5. Towns.

On the shores of the Black Sea is *Trebizond* (50,000) now the largest Turkish port on the Black Sea, and during the thirteenth century the seat of a Greek Empire. *Erzeroum* (50,000) lies to the south-east, in a plain between two mountain ranges, and is on this side the outpost of the Turks. *Van* (15,000) has a beautiful site on the east of the lake. The chief towns in the Tigris basin are *Diabekr* (45,000), with some trade; and *Mosul* (50,000) lower down the river. Near Mosul is the site of the battle of Arbela, fought by Alexander in 331, in a plain north of the Zab; and also the ruins of the old Nineveh, capital of Assyria, where the winged horses and bulls were found. The Assyrian hills yielded the stone necessary for these splendid monuments, while Babylonia only produced the fine grey clay that was baked into bricks, and used for writing their records on. All that remains of *Bagdad* (60,000), the seat of the Califates, is on the river much further south. Bagdad has now fallen into decay; but owing to its situation on a navigable river has still preserved some of its trade. The Euphrates, which is navigable for 1,100 miles, and drains a large extent of country, waters Armenia and Syria, and then bends to the south-east, running parallel with the Tigris. At some distance from its right bank is *Hillah* (10,000), near which are the ruins of Babylon. Babylon was built

on both sides of the Euphrates in the great plain, which is the natural home of wheat, and is covered with date groves. It was in this old Chaldæa, where a wide sweep of sky could be observed at once, that the shepherds and wise men used to watch the stars, and note the difference between them. Trade has now been diverted to *Bassorah*, or *Basra* (60,000), below the junction of the two rivers, which is in constant communication with the Persian Gulf. The length of the Euphrates is 1,750 miles.

#### SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

West of Upper Mesopotamia begins the country known as Syria, bounded on the north by the Anti-Taurus, on the west by the Mediterranean, on the south by Arabia Petræa, and on the east by the chalk and limestone stretch of the Syrian desert, and the river Euphrates. The territory thus included is 430 miles long, and about 100 broad. The south-west portion is called Palestine.

The whole belt of country is very mountainous, the ranges following the lines of the coast, but leaving room for two narrow plains along the sea—that of Sharon in the south, and that of Acre further north. Beyond the plain of Acre is the snowy chain of the Lebanon (10,000 feet), once clothed with cedar forests, and abounding in streams. Lebanon merges to the north into the Jebel Nusarieh, beyond which flows the Orontes, draining the plain of Antioch. To the east of the Lebanon is the Anti-Lebanon, with Mount Hermon (11,000 feet), and the plains of Damascus on its eastern slopes. These are separated from the Syrian *desert* by another mountain range. South of Hermon

is the chain of lakes, which extend southwards in a straight line and end in the Dead Sea, 1,292 feet below the sea level. The Dead Sea is connected by the deep valley through which the Jordan flows, with the Sea of Galilee or Lake of Tiberias. This Jordan valley is very hot; for the heavy rains have scooped out the high banks into rounded hills, which keep off the breezes. Here lauristinus, oaks, and evergreens flourish during the wet season. In some places are thick jungles, which afford hiding-places for wild boars, and shelter for lepers. East of this deep depression rise the limestone mountains of Moab and Gilead, and to the west is the hill country of Samaria (with the promontory of Mount Carmel), and that of Judæa. To the south lies the mountainous Edom, and in the south-west is the plain of Philistia.

Syria and Palestine are well watered. The Jordan, whose main source is north of Mount Hermon, receives many tributaries on its left bank, the largest of which are the Jarmuk and the Jabbok, draining Manasseh and Gilead. The plains of Philistia are watered by the Eskol. Various streams flow through the plains of Sharon into the Mediterranean (or the "Great Sea"), as it is called in the Bible), and the famous river Kishon empties itself into the Bay of Acre through the plain of Jezreel. North of Tyre is the Leontes, whose source is in Cœle Syria, not far from that of the Orontes, which has an opposite course before it turns south-west and empties itself into the Levant, as this part of the Mediterranean is called. The plain of Damascus is watered by the Abana and *Pharpar*.

### 1. Produce.

Oranges, mulberries, citrons, olives, dates, and wheat are the chief produce. Tobacco is grown round Latakia on the coast, and there are many turpentine-yielding trees.

### 2. Climate.

In the high lands it is very cold, both in the night and in the winter; but along the Jordan valley it is very close and hot. The climate of Damascus is temperate. In Cœle Syria a violent wind prevails; while the south is subject to the hot winds from the desert.

### 3. History.

We do not propose to enter into the details of the history of Palestine and Syria, but to give a few facts since the time of Solomon. Under his son Rehoboam the ten tribes broke away from the kingdom, and built Samaria as their capital; while the kings of Judah retained the strong fortress of Jerusalem or Jebus, conquered by David. Civil wars ensued till Assyria subdued Israel, in 721 B.C., and Judah fell a prey to Babylon in 588. The Jews remained in captivity for seventy years, when Cyrus allowed them to return to their own country. In the reign of Cyrus they were both overrun by the Persians, and were ruled by a "satrap" or Persian governor, living at Damascus, till the overthrow of the Persian empire by Alexander, in 331 B.C. After the death of Alexander his empire was divided among his generals. Palestine and Cœle Syria became part of the Egyptian kingdom of Lysimachus; while North Syria fell to the share of Seleucus, who built Antioch on the Orontes as the capital of this part of his dominions. About 170 B.C. the

Seleucian king obtained possession of Palestine. After the kingdom had lasted altogether 250 years, Judæa revolted under Judas Maccabæus, and elected its own kings till the Roman conquest, in B.C. 63. In 37 B.C. Herod the Great was made king, and his family held the crown subject to the Romans till the final revolt of the city, in the reign of Vespasian, when Jerusalem was captured, A.D. 70. After this a Roman prefect at Antioch ruled all Syria till its conquest by the Arabs, in A.D. 634. Damascus was made their capital till 750, when Bagdad took its place. In the eleventh century the cruelties of the Seljukian Turks, who overran and subdued the country, roused the wrath of Christendom, and the first of the Crusades, or Holy Wars, began. Jerusalem was taken, and Godfrey, Count of Boulogne, was made king (1099). In 1187 the "Holy Land" again became Mahometan under Saladin, but forty years later was ceded by treaty to the Christians. During this time the Christian princes had established small sovereignties in many of the cities. Not long afterwards Syria once more became Egyptian, and was the scene of warfare between the Tartar peoples (now coming from Central Asia) and the Egyptians. In 1517 it was finally conquered by the Turkish Sultan Solyman the Great.

The present inhabitants are descended from the Syrian branch of the old Semitic race, with some mixture of Greek and Arab blood. There are also about 500,000 Turks, and some Phœnicians on the north-west coasts.

#### 4. Religion.

The religions are many. The Turks and Arabs are Mahometans; there are some Jews, many Catholics,

a Christian sect called Maronites (whose doctrines much resemble our own), dwelling principally in the Lebanon, and the Druses, whose origin and religion are alike obscure.

### 5. Government.

Syria is divided into three pashaliks — Aleppo, Damascus, and Sidon. There is a Christian governor in the Lebanon.

The population of Syria and Palestine is 2,000,000.

### 6. Towns.

*Aleppo* (90,000), the most northerly of the Syrian towns, is near the borders of the Syrian desert. It has a brisk trade in its manufactures of gold and silver embroideries and brocades, which it exchanges for fruit and silks. Exactly to the west of it, on the Orontes, is *Antioch* (5,000), once the third city of the Roman Empire, the home of rich merchants, and adorned with marble palaces and beautiful gardens, among which was the celebrated grove of Daphne. Since its foundation by Seleucus Nicator, in 301 B.C., Antioch has stood many sieges and had many masters. Far to the south is *Damascus* (150,000), which believes itself to be the oldest city in the world, built on a rich plain, 2,300 feet above the sea, and watered by the Abana and the Pharpar. The tableland is girded by hills, and up to their base are gardens of pomegranates, apricots, myrtles, and groves of walnuts. In the city are beautiful mosques and public buildings. Damascus was famous in the Middle Ages for its sword blades. To the north-west lies *Baalbec*, the "City of the Sun," with its wonderful remains; and far away to the north-east are *the ruins of the ancient Tadmor* or Palmyra, between

the limestone hills and the desert. Tadmor was built by Solomon as a commercial station on the road to Persia, and ultimately became nominally dependent on Rome. One of its citizens made successful war on the Persians in 260 A.D., and after conquering Mesopotamia was made a tributary king by the Romans; but his wife and successor Zenobia aspired to become independent, and after ruling for a short time from Asia Minor to Egypt, she was seized and brought to Rome 270 A.D. On the coast is *Byrout* (75,000), a flourishing port; and between the sea and the mountains stretches the rich but uncultivated plain of Phœnicia, with the towns of Sidon and Tyre. *Sidon* has gardens of pomegranates, peaches, lemons, figs, plums, and oranges. Being on the mainland, it was more often successfully besieged than *Tyre* (4,000), which stands on a little island further south. This was the cradle of the Phœnician race, which sent forth colonies and trading ships into all parts of the world. No one knows exactly when Tyre was built; but it is very old, and has stood sieges from Assyrians, Babylonians, and many other nations, till at last it was taken by Alexander. *Acre* (5,000) stands on a bay, looking across to the wooded Mount Carmel, and to the south-east. Among the hills is *Nazareth* (7,000). A strip of pasture and cornland extends along the coast as far as *Joppa* (10,000), which produces apricots, oranges, and lemons. Steamers call here, but landing cannot always be effected. *Ascalon* and *Gaza* (20,000), on the fertile plain of Sharon (once the territory of the Philistines), have gardens of melons and apricots, and groves of palms, mulberries, and olives. The river Eskol, at the mouth of which *Ascalon* is situated, rises in the mountains of Judah,

west of the old towns of Hebron (5,000). The valley of Eshcol (which has nothing to do with the river) is still noted for its vines and olives. Near it is the cave of Machpelah, where Abraham was buried. North of Hebron is *Bethlehem* (5,000), where Christ was born; and straight north, built on a circle of limestone hills, is *Jerusalem* (28,000), with the valley of the brook Kedron dividing it from the Mount of Olives. Within the city walls are Mount Zion, the highest of the hills, and Moriah, on which the temple was built. South of the desert country round the Dead Sea is the wild land of Edom, with its mountains of porphyry and sandstone; and to the east of it is the rich red soil of the mountains of Moab, which produces fine crops of wheat.

### CHAPTER III.

#### ARABIA.

The peninsula of Arabia is bounded on the north by the Syrian desert, on the south by the Arabian Sea, on the east by the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, and on the west by the Red Sea. The west shores of the Persian Gulf, as far as east longitude 51°, are Turkish, and the remainder of the country is independent, under sultans or emirs. The names of the Turkish provinces are Hejaz, Yemen, and Hasa; those of the independent sultanates, Hadramaut, Oman, and Nejd, besides the territory of the Bedouins.

#### 1. Physical Features.

Arabia is a high plateau, except on the north-west, where a deep depression cuts off Arabia Petræa (or **Stony Arabia**) from the high rocky peninsula of Sinai.

The ground slopes upwards from the north-east towards the south-west, reaching here, at its highest point, 8,500 feet. The coast-line is comparatively unbroken, and there are few harbours. The gravelly and sandy plains of the north are barren, and *samh*, a small plant with berries resembling currants, forms the staple food of the people. Ostriches are frequently met with in this region, and there are great herds of camels. The desert runs round Arabia like a ring, inside the mountains which girdle the country about 100 miles from the coast, spreading out in the south between Oman and Yemen; while it encloses fertile country in the centre and north. Mountain chains and oases, or well-watered regions, are scattered about, the chief being the oasis of Jowf in the north, sixty miles long, where peaches, apricots, dates, and figs are abundant. To the south of this is the tableland of Nejd, averaging about 3,000 feet, broken by many mountain-chains, the chief being Jebel Toweyd, 6,000 feet high (Jebel is the Arab word for mountain), and Jebel Shammar further north. The soil of Nejd is fertile, and produces figs, grapes, melons, pomegranates, oranges, citron, maize, millet, and dates. The finest breed of horses is in Nejd, which also abounds in sheep and cattle. The Turkish province of *Hasa*, on the Persian Gulf, has some good harbours. Here is the island of *Bahrein*, the head-quarters of the celebrated pearl fishery. *Oman*, under an independent sultan, occupies the south-east corner. A forest-covered mountain chain rises on the east coast, and the rest of Oman is taken up by a high and fertile tableland, yielding cotton, indigo, mangoes, coffee, sugar, peaches, citrons, and dates; while camels and peacocks exist in large numbers, and lead and copper are mined in the

mountains. *Hadramaut*, on the south coast, is in possession of independent Bedouin chiefs. A range, made of volcanic and soft limestone and sandstone rocks, runs parallel to the coast, and slopes on the north side to the burning desert. Frankincense and myrrh were formerly exported from Hadramaut. North-west of the British possession of Aden the fertile *Yemen*, or Arabia Felix (Happy), as it was called by the ancients, faces the Red Sea, north of the Straits of Babel Mandeb, and is one of the Turkish provinces. Yemen is about 5,000 feet high, with a comparatively cool climate and rich soil. Where the rocks are volcanic the best coffee is grown, and the whole country is covered with millet, wheat, tobacco, madder, cocoanuts, dates, peaches, oranges, pomegranates, indigo, senna, gum, frankincense, myrrh, and cotton. On the south is *Mocha*, famous for its coffee.

The Turkish province of Hejaz occupies the remainder of the Red Sea coast. It is far less fertile than Yemen; but yields pomegranates, almonds, and dates. *Sana*, a large town, with 50,000 inhabitants, is in the interior. South of the Tropic of Cancer is *Mecca* (30,000), where Mahomet was born; and about the same distance on the north of the tropic, on the east side of the mountains, is *Medina* (15,000), where he was buried. Mahometans flock in large numbers to both these places.

## 2. Climate.

In the desert the climate is fearfully hot, and is subject to a poisonous wind called a simoom. The higher parts of the central tableland are dry and *bracing*; but the south and west coasts are stifling,

and very unhealthy. Arabia has hardly any permanent rivers, but only temporary water-courses, called wadis; and Yemen owes its richness to some small streams, and to a sufficient supply of rain. By far the greater part of the country is almost rainless.

### 3. Inhabitants.

The population of Arabia may be divided into two closely-connected branches of the Semitic stock. In the north-west and north-west centre are the "dwellers in the open lands," the wandering, pastoral Bedouins, each clan subject to its own sheikh, or chief. These number about one million and a half. The rest of Arabia is inhabited by the "dwellers in fixed localities," the whole number of the population, which is independent, being 3,700,000; while that of the Turkish provinces is reckoned at over 1,000,000. The organization is simple. Each village has a sheikh or chief, and all are responsible to the Emir or Sultan. Of all the emirs of Independent Arabia, the Emir of Shammar has lately made himself the most powerful. *Nejd* and Oman are the only large kingdoms.

There are numbers of slaves in Arabia, and on every occasion of household festivity a slave is set free.

The Arabs are all Mahometans.

*Riad* (30,000), in the centre of *Nejd*, and the capital of the kingdom, and *Muscat* (40,000), on the coast of Oman, are the only other towns that need be mentioned.

Arabia exports horses, camels, sheep, coffee, dates, and pearls.

The imports are cotton prints, sugar, arms, and powder.

#### 4. History.

When first we hear of Arabia it was divided into many monarchies, of which Yemen was the greatest and oldest. This kingdom lasted till it was conquered by the Abyssinians in A.D. 529, by the Persians in 603, and in 634 it submitted to the Caliph Omar. Many of the other kingdoms were at various times dependent on Persia, and one or two of those in the north were allied with Rome. The tribe of the Koreish, to which Mahomet belonged, came from the north. Their great prophet, who exercised so vast an influence on the world's history, was born at Mecca in 569. Forty years later he began his mission, which was to preach to the Arabs, sunk in all sorts of low superstitions, that there was but one God, of whom he was the prophet. The Arabs not only accepted his doctrines themselves, but forced them on others at the point of the sword. One hundred years after the death of Mahomet, which happened in 632, Mahomedanism was professed from the Euphrates to the Pyrenees; and would have spread still further, but the Mahometan arms were checked by Charles Martel at the battle of Tours, A.D. 732. When the seat of government was removed from Damascus to Bagdad, Arabia was left to itself, and split up into clans and provinces. In the Middle Ages Egypt obtained a footing in Arabia, and the Turkish conqueror, Solyman, partially occupied it in 1517; but the Turkish authority was of short duration, and was ignored through much of the peninsula. In 1691 the reformer Wahhab was born, and under him took place the insurrection of the Wahhabees, who for more than a hundred years fought *the Turks for the possession of their country*. The

kingdom of Nejd is still a Wahhabee kingdom. Oman was partly colonized by the Portuguese from 1508 to the middle of the seventeenth century. Afterwards it fell periodically into the hands of the Persians. It is now independent, and divided into eight provinces.

In the Middle Ages the Arabs had an immense reputation as professors of medicine, astronomy, and mathematics.

## CHAPTER IV.

### PERSIA.

The valley of the Euphrates and Tigris, and the Persian Gulf, divide Arabia from Persia. Persia is a high plateau, bounded on the north by the river Aras, the Caspian Sea, south of which is the carboniferous limestone and sandstone range of the Elburz, culminating in Demavend (over 19,000 feet) and Turkestan; on the west, by the mountains of Kurdistan and Mesopotamia; on the south, by the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman; and on the east, by Beloochistan and Afghanistan. The mountain ranges within the frontiers run from north-west to south-east, and reach their highest point (about 17,000 feet) in the province of Fars; 11,000 feet is, however, the average height. The western plateaux are in general 5,000 feet above the sea level, but sink towards the sandy desert of Khorassan, on the east, where the soil is covered with a deposit of salt. In the south, in Kirman, are several lakes; and in the north-west is the beautiful lake of Urumiah, said to be three hundred miles round; but Persia, as a whole, is not well watered. *Some small streams drain into the Persian Gulf; some*

lose themselves in the interior. The Tejend, on the north-east, is the most important of these. The Atrek and the Safid flow straight into the Caspian.

### 1. Climate.

The coast of the Persian Gulf is very unhealthy from its extreme heat, which in a less degree is characteristic of the whole of Persia, although, from the elevation above the sea, the winters are exceedingly cold. North-west winds prevail, and overpower the moister breezes from the Indian Ocean. The mountain girdle receives most of the rain that falls ; so that the amount of the rainfall in the interior only amounts to ten inches, and in the east to five.

### 2. Productions.

Dates are abundant among the south-west mountains ; and on the well-watered slopes of the north side of the Elburz are thick forests of elm, oak, beech, walnut, cedar, and box. In the strip of rich soil between the mountains and the Caspian are wheat, barley, cotton, grapes, figs, plums, cherries, peaches, tobacco, madder, and indigo. Many of these are also found in the fertile patches round the cities of Ispahan and Shiraz, and in the north-west corner. The east is barren, and the remainder of the country given up to pasture lands.

### 3. Animals.

Sturgeon are caught in the Caspian Sea, and in the rivers flowing into it. Lions still roam over the mountainous province of Fars ; and wolves, leopards, and jackals are numerous in the north. Persia is famous for its nightingales and pheasants. Of domestic *animals, it has the camel* (whose hair makes "camels'-

hair cloth"), small horses, cats, sheep, mules, and goats.

#### 4. People.

The inhabitants of Persia belong to many races, but, out of the entire population of 7,653,000, four and a half millions are branches of the old Iranian (Aryan) stock, and are chiefly Tajiks, Kurds, and Beloochis. We may also reckon nearly a million of Tatar and Mongolian races, and half a million Arabs and Armenians. Mahommedanism is almost universal.

#### 5. History.

At the time that the Assyrian Empire ruled over nearly the whole of western Asia, the country we now call Persia was occupied by several tribes, the most important of these being the Medes on the north and the Persians towards the south. As the great empire grew weaker, the small tributary kingdoms began to assert their independence, and in B.C. 625 Cyaxares, the king, invaded and conquered Nineveh itself, which was burnt to the ground. The Median kingdom extended its borders, and lasted until it was subdued in the next century by Cyrus the Persian, who also subdued the great Babylon itself (B.C. 538.) The Persian kingdom, founded by Cyrus, rapidly extended its borders as far as the Oxus and the Indus, and remained powerful till its last king, Darius, was overthrown by Alexander of Macedon at the battle of Arbela in 331. After Alexander came the dynasty of the Seleucidæ, which was deposed in B.C. 255 by Arsaces the Parthian, who became the first of the Ascanian kings. The Ascanians governed the country till the year 226 A.D., and then Artabanus the king was defeated and killed by Artaxerxes the

Sassanian. The crown remained in the family of the Sassanidæ till Yezdegird, the last of the line, was murdered, in 651, after a battle with the victorious crusading Arabs. With him ended the old Magian religion, taught by Zoroaster, which had been for a thousand years the faith of Persia, and was now to give place to Islam. Persia was merely a province of Bagdad for the next two hundred years, till in 868 a patriot arose and expelled the governor. After a short interval Persia was divided between two families—the Samanians, who ruled from Khorassan to the Oxus, and the Dilamites, who governed the south. The Samanians were of Tatar extraction, and were deposed, together with the Dilamites, at the end of the eleventh century, in favour of a Turkish house. Persia was conquered in the thirteenth century by Holagu, grandson of the great Genghis Khan, the Tatar, and in the fourteenth century by the Tatar Tamerlane. This latter dynasty, however, lasted less than a century, then the Persians expelled it, and a native prince (of the Sassanian line) mounted the throne. In 1722 the reigning Sassanian king was deposed by an Afghan chief, and from this time to the end of the century the country was distracted by civil wars and rival claimants. Finally Aga Mohammed got the better of the rest, and the present Shah is his descendant.

#### 6. Government.

The Shah or King is absolute, but he is assisted by a Grand Vizier (or Prime Minister). Each of the provinces is under a governor, and every town has a chief magistrate.

*The provinces are as follows :*

Azerbaijan, Ghilan, Mazanderan, and Astrabad in the north.

In the east, Khorassan, Yezd, part of Seistan, Kohistan.

In the south, part of Mekran, Laristan, Fars, and part of Khuzistan.

In the west, Luristan and part of Kurdistan.

In the centre, Irak Ajemi and Kirman.

### 7. Towns.

From its barrenness the east is very thinly peopled, and the only town that need be mentioned here is *Meshed* (50,000), a place of pilgrimage for the Moslems, and politically important as guarding the breach in the mountains between Merv and Herat. *Teheran* (100,000), the modern capital, is built on a chalky limestone plain lying below the Elburz range, west of the great volcano of Demavend (18,600 feet), but with few advantages of position or internal beauty to make it worth visiting. *Tabriz* (120,000), east of Lake Urumiah, is in the midst of a rich volcanic country, yielding grapes and other fruits, and rice. It is still the principal market for Persian trade, though it has somewhat declined from its former prosperity. In the centre of Persia is *Ispahan* (60,000), built on an orchard-covered plain at the foot of some high mountains. Unlike *Teheran*, it has some beautiful buildings—palaces, bridges, and baths—and large silk manufactures. *Shiraz* (30,000), to the south among the mountains, has the reputation of being the loveliest city in Persia. It is 4,500 feet above the sea, with a mild climate, and with numerous streams flowing through its gardens. *Roses and tropical plants grow in profusion, and the*

inhabitants distil rose-water and attar of roses. Near Shiraz are the celebrated "ruins of Jamshed," which were either a temple or a palace. *Bushire* (25,000), on the Persian Gulf, is inhabited by Arabs, and trades with India. Its climate is very unhealthy.

## CHAPTER V.

### BELOOCHISTAN.

The small state of Beloochistan, lying between Persia, India, the Arabian Sea, and Afghanistan, rises in gravelled terraces from the ocean towards the interior, the north being occupied by a sandy plain. In the north-west corner is the depression of Seistan (known as the Hamun Swamp), which borders Persia; and down the east frontier two groups of mountains run from north to south, forming the watershed for the tributaries of the Indus. The climate is subject to extremes of heat and cold, and violent sandstorms, but in spite of this drawback date palms grow in the southern district of Makran. In the mountain valleys of the east are forests of mulberry, olive, and walnut, and, where the soil permits, tobacco, indigo, cotton, rice, madder, and wheat are cultivated.

#### 1. People.

The inhabitants are mostly of a race called the *Brahuis*, whose origin is uncertain. The rest are *Beloochis*, who live chiefly on the coast, and are said to be of Semitic origin. At one time they were subject to the Brahuis. Before that the country was probably subject to a Hindu dynasty. The language

of the Beloochis resembles Persian, that of the Brahuis Hindu.

Both are Mahommedans, though of different sects, which are at enmity with each other. A large number of gipsies, called Luris, likewise inhabit Beloochistan.

## 2. Government.

The country is governed by the Khan of Kelat, who in 1877 made a treaty with the British, granting them certain privileges in times of war. The khan has many chiefs subject to him.

The population is about 500,000.

## 3. Animals.

The Arabian Sea abounds with fish, and the interior of the country with lizards. The dwellers on the coast were known to the ancients as Ichthyophagi, or Fish-eaters. In the highlands are dromedaries, camels, and horses, besides wild asses, goats, gazelles, leopards, tigers, and lions.

## 4. Products.

Aromatic shrubs, dates, and figs grow in the valleys, and cotton, tobacco, madder, rice, indigo, barley, and some wheat are grown in Beloochistan. There are also forests containing walnuts, sycamores, and plan-tains, and quantities of the assafoetida plant.

## 5. Towns.

*Kelat* (12,000), the capital, is built on a tableland 6,000 feet above the sea. *Quetta* is among the mountains on the Afghan frontier, and is important as holding the road into Afghanistan.

## CHAPTER VI.

## AFGHANISTAN.

THE state of Afghanistan is bounded on the east by the Suleiman mountains, which divide it from the Punjab, on the south by Beloochistan, on the west by Persia and the Tejend river, on the north by Bokhara and the Pamir.

The country is high, rising from the tablelands of the west and the Hamun Swamp, towards the east, while a range of mountains stretches from the river Tejend, on the Persian frontier, to the Hindoo Koosh, the peaks becoming loftier as we approach the east till, near the Nuksan Pass, Tirieh Mir reaches 25,000 feet.

Afghanistan contains many rivers. The Helmund, which rises west of Kābul, among the Koh-i-Baba mountains, receives some tributaries from Kandahar, as the southern part of Afghanistan is called, and flows into the Seistan lake. The Heri-rood, or river of Herat, rises west of the Koh-i-Baba, and makes straight for the Persian frontier, when it turns north and joins the Tejend, ultimately to lose itself in the sandy deserts. The Murghab rises near the Heri-rood, and has a north-west course past Merv, till it comes to an end in the sandy wastes of the Turkomans. The Kābul river joins the Indus; and on the north is the great Amu Daria, or Oxus, with the golden sands, whose source is in the Pamir. The Oxus drains the north-east of Afghanistan, and divides it from Bokhara. The north-east corner of Afghanistan is occupied by *Kafri-stan*, lying between the Hindoo Koosh and the Indus,

and drained by the tributaries of the Kābul. The mountain slopes are covered with pine forests, while fruits are grown in the valleys and plains. Kafiristan (including Gilgit, Chitral, and Swat) are really quite independent of Afghanistan, in spite of her claim of lordship. Little is known about them.

### 1. Climate.

The climate varies between extremes of heat and cold. Among the mountains on the east, and particularly round Kābul, snow often lies three months in the year; but the heat of the summer is equally extreme, and in the valleys it is almost unbearable. The rainfall is very slight. Afghanistan is on the whole healthy.

### 2. Productions, Animals, and Minerals.

Great forests of oak, walnut, birch, and pine clothe the mountains of the north. Rhubarb and assafœtida, a medicinal plant, cover large tracts, and the Afghanistan pomegranates, mulberries, peaches, grapes, melons, and apples are reckoned equal to any. Pistachio nuts grow on the north frontier. In the lower lands wheat, rice, turnips, madder, maize, cotton, tobacco, and sugar, are cultivated, and some yield two harvests. The sheep that graze in the high plains supply fine wool, that is woven in Kashmir, and there are many horses, and cattle with humps. The principal wild animals are wolves, leopards, and jackals. Rubies are found in the Hindoo Koosh, and lapis lazuli and turquoise on the north-east frontier, about Badakshan. Gypsum and antimony are obtained about thirty miles north of Kandahar, and sulphur from the east. Some of the river sands yield gold and copper, and iron and lead

are obtained from the south side of the mountains. Coal is found near Ghazni, and nitre in the soil of the south-west.

### 3. People and Religion.

The greater number of the inhabitants of Afghanistan (amounting to four and a half millions) are of Aryan race, while the remainder belong to the Tatar nation. The Aryans may be divided into many branches, of which the principal are the *Galchas*, on both sides of the Hindoo Koosh; *Iranic* tribes, through most of the centre and east; and *Indic* tribes, in most of the large towns.

Of the *Mongol* or *Tatar* race are the *Usbegs*, *Turk-mans*, and *Kizil-Bashis*, who live mainly on the north frontier and in Kabul.

The Afghans themselves are Aryans, and are known as Pathans. They are Mahommedans, as are also the people of Tatar race. The Galchas are pagans.

### 4. History.

Both Afghanistan and Beloochistan, under the names of Bactria, Paropamisus, and Gedrosia, once formed part of the Assyrian and next of the Persian Empire, and then were included in that of Alexander. After his death (B.C. 323) Afghanistan fell under the government of his general, Seleucus, and in the year 181 B.C. created itself into a temporary kingdom, extending from the Jaxartes to the Ganges. At the beginning of our era both states were provinces of the Parthian Empire, and became Persian again somewhere about A.D. 300. In the seventh century they succumbed under the universal power of Mahommedanism, and remained part of the

empire of the Caliphs till the beginning of the thirteenth century, when they were attacked by the *Mongols*. In the year 1600 we find that Beloochistan and Afghanistan were again Persian, and by the beginning of the next century the Afghans had grown so powerful that for a short time they imposed a king on Persia itself. This, however, did not last long; but before the end of the century the two states had finally become independent.

### 5. Government.

The states of Balkh, Kandahar, and Herat have all been acquired by the Afghans of Kābul since 1850, and were recognized by the English as part of Afghanistan in 1863. Since that time, however, the government has frequently changed, and since the war of 1879 the towns of Kābul and Kandahar have been, on occasion, held by the British.

The country is at present in a state of confusion, but if left to itself would probably break up into a number of small clans.

### TOWNS.

#### Basin of the Oxus.

Between the mountains which under various names divide the north of Afghanistan from the south are *Badakshan*, a small town in the fertile district of the same name which lies south of the Pamir; *Kunduz* (3,000) east of the Kunduz river, which rises in the Koh-i-Baba range; Khulm to the west of Kunduz, on the Khulm river, which drains a rich orchard-covered plain; *Balkh*, on a plain to the west, the centre of the *fire-worshipping* Zoroastrian religion, and once the rival

of Nineveh. Balkh, which has lately become a ruin, is one of the old towns of Bactria, and a shrine of the Buddhists. *Maimana*, on a river which loses itself in the desert before it can join the Oxus, has a large trade in horses and camels' hair cloth. On the south side of the mountains is *Herat* (60,000), on the river Heri-Rood, guarding the road to India, and forming one end of the triangular breach, of which the other angles are Meshed and Merv. It lies in a fertile valley, and is famous for its horses, and wheat, and beautiful carpets. *Kābul* (75,000), the capital, is on the Kābul river, whose source is among the spurs of the Koh-i-baba, and is the meeting-place of many roads. It is built on a rich plain, yielding both grain and fruits, which Kābul exports in exchange for spices, indigo, cotton, and woollen goods from India, and for leather, hardware, silks, and paper from Russia.

The south of Afghanistan is drained by rivers flowing into the Seistan lake depression, chiefly tributaries of the great river Helmund, which rises among the mountains west of Kābul. On one of its branches is *Ghazni* (8,000), a fortress on a high plateau, the birth-place of "Mahmoud the Ghaznevide," who about the year A.D. 1000 imposed a dynasty on the North of India. Lower down on the same stream, on a plain 3,500 feet high, is *Kandahar* (60,000), on the road from Herat to the Indus. It exports all the native produce of Afghanistan, and imports British goods by way of India, and Persian silks, gold embroidery, and carpets. Kandahar manufactures felt and silk, and prepares magnesia.

## CHAPTER VII.

## INDEPENDENT TURKESTAN.

## Basin of the Oxus or Amoo.

BETWEEN the encroachments of Russia, Persia, and Afghanistan, *Independent Turkestan* is now reduced to a very small compass. A line drawn from the Sea of Aral to the Tejend Swamp may be roughly said to bound it on the west, while on the east it narrows into the plateau of Pamir. The northern part is subject to the Khan of *Khiva*, himself really dependent on Russia. The country east of the Amoo or Oxus is occupied by the Khanate of *Bokhara* (also a vassal state of Russia), while the frontier towards Persia is inhabited by the wandering *Tekke Turkmans*. The people, numbering in all about 2,600,000, are principally of Turkish race, and speak a Turkish tongue. Of these the *Usbegs* are the most numerous and civilized, and have given up a nomad for an agricultural existence. There are also a large number of *Tajiks* belonging to the Iranic branch of the Aryan race, who have intermarried with the Usbegs. All these races are Mahommedans.

## 1. Physical Features.

If we examine the map we shall find that the great central Asiatic ranges (the Hindoo Koosh, the Karakoram, the Kuen-Lun, the Alai, and the Thian Shan) converge towards the plateau of *Pamir*, otherwise called "the Roof of the World," wedged in between

Russian Turkestan and Afghanistan. The plateau is elevated about 15,000 feet above the sea, and the highest peaks of the mountains bounding it to the east reach 25,000 feet. The two sources of the Oxus are in the bare grassy plateau of Pamir, and the river forms for some distance the north boundary of Afghanistan, and then flowing to the north-west divides Khiva from Bokhara, and finally enters the Sea of Aral in Russian soil. The Oxus has more than once altered its course, and formerly emptied itself into the Caspian. At its source the Oxus is nearly 14,000 feet above the sea level; but it falls down to 245 feet, the height of the Sea of Aral above the ocean. In its way the river brings down large quantities of alluvial soil, and where the amount of water is sufficient to fertilize this great quantities of fruit and flowers are produced; but on the wide, dry, sandy steppes only hardy plants will flourish.

## 2. Products.

In the cultivated spots, especially round Khiva and Bokhara, wheat, rice, the vine, and a grain called *jugura* (used to feed cattle and horses) are largely cultivated. Plantations of tobacco, madder, flax, hemp, cotton, and clover are everywhere seen, and orchards of peaches, pomegranates, apricots, pears, and plums are spread thickly over the country. The mulberry trees feed numbers of silkworms, and the elms and poplars are cut down for timber.

## 3. Climate.

The climate is very dry, this part of Turkestan being included in the great "rainless" district of Asia. The

slight amount of rain that *does* fall expends itself on the mountains, and there it often appears as snow. The lower lands are very cold in winter, owing to the north winds, which blow unchecked across Siberia; and very hot in summer, owing to the severe sand-storms and "fever wind." Many of the rivers have not strength to pursue their course as far as the Oxus, and lose themselves in the sandy wastes.

#### 4. Towns.

East of the Oxus, on a well-watered plain cultivated with tobacco, is *Karshi* (25,000). To the north is the old and famous *Bokhara* (70,000), surrounded with fruit and vegetable gardens, with large schools, and manufactures of copper work, leather, and fine cambric. The trade is carried on chiefly by means of caravans. Bokhara has decreased rapidly in size and importance since the encroachment of the Russians, who have drawn off for their own purposes the water of the river Zarafshan. Sailing down the Oxus we leave *Khiva* (5,000) at some distance to the left. Khiva is celebrated for its fruit trees and its nightingales, but is only politically important as being the residence of the Khan. *Urgenj* (30,000) is a fortified town on the left bank of the river. The famous town of *Merv*, now only a collection of mud huts, inhabited by Tekke-Turkmans, is on the Murghab, in the south of Turkestan. It is of strategical importance as commanding the road to Herat. The soil of this part of Turkestan is very fertile where water can be obtained.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## RUSSIAN ASIA.

THE Russian dominions in Asia stretch from the Caucasus to the Behring Sea, and from the Chinese Empire to the Arctic Ocean, amounting to fully one-third of the whole Asiatic continent. We have already considered *Transcaucasia* (vol. ii.), so we will at once pass on to Russian Turkestan.

## RUSSIAN TURKESTAN.

## Basin of the Jaxartes or Sir Daria.

The river Jaxartes rises under the name of Narin in the great Thian Shan (or Celestial) range, which is composed chiefly of crystalline, granite, and sandstone rocks. Among these mountains are splendid pastures, where long-tailed sheep and cattle feed in great numbers, while the fertile valleys produce quantities of fruit and vegetables; but though the lands watered by its head streams are so rich, the lower course of the river passes through a sandy waste. The Alatan Mountains, containing a peak (Mount Kauffmann) 25,000 feet high, form the watershed between the tributaries of the Jaxartes and the streams that empty themselves into the small inland lakes on the north-west. Leaving these, the Jaxartes pursues its way through a gradually-falling country till it discharges itself into the large basin of the Sea of Aral, dotted over with islands, and fringed near the shore by huge reeds. The south of Turkestan is very fertile.

### 1. History.

This country once formed part of the kingdom of Parthia, which extended at the time of its greatest power as far as Syria, and was subdued by the Persians in the third century A.D. During the last thirty years the Russians have encroached rapidly, and now touch the plateau of Pamir. The boundaries of Russian Turkestan may at present be said to be the mountains on the south, the Sea of Aral on the west, and Lake Balkash on the north-east, and between these two last the grassy Kirghis steppes stretch away indefinitely. There is a governor-general of Turkestan, and the country is divided into provinces, each of which has a governor of its own, named by the Russian Minister of War, and a council. The six millions and a quarter of people belong (1) to the Usbeg branch of the Turkish race inhabiting the south; and (2) to the Khirghis, also Turks, on the north, besides some Russians, Galchis, and Tajiks. All are Mahommedans except the Russians.

### 2. Climate.

The climate is temperate and pleasant throughout the greater part of Turkestan, with a sufficient quantity of rain in the neighbourhood of the mountains.

### 3. Products.

The chief products are cotton, silk, black lambs' wool or "astrakhan" cloth, fruits, and grains.

### 4. Towns.

*Marghilan* (40,000), chosen by the Russians as their capital, lies among the mountains of the province of Ferghana, a little south of the Jaxartes. The people

of Marghilan manufacture a thin silk gauze. *Khokand* (60,000), on a small branch of the Jaxartes, makes paper, and has large weapon foundries and many jewellers. Coal is obtained from the opposite side of the river, and naphtha springs are known to exist. *Khoyend* (29,000) is on the left bank of the Jaxartes, and *Tashkend* (100,000), on a tributary on the right bank. It has an admirable situation on a wide wooded plain, bordered on the east by the Alatan, with a rainfall of twelve inches and a good climate. Tashkend is the largest city in Russian Asia except Tiflis, and has some learned societies and good schools. It is the market for Russian wares.

The Zarafshan, or "River of Golden Sand," waters the fertile country on the south of Turkestan. In the midst of fruit gardens, orchards, and wheat fields lies *Samarcand* (32,000), celebrated in Asiatic history. Samarcand was nearly destroyed, early in the thirteenth century, by Genghis; but it was afterwards restored, and made the capital of the empire of Tamerlane, who is buried here. Like Tashkend, it has many excellent schools. The south-east corner of Turkestan is drained by the river Ili, which rises on the Chinese frontier, and flows into Lake Balkash. This part of the country (known as the province of Semirechinsk) is famous for its beauty, especially on the south, round Lake Issik-kul. *Vernoe*, to the north of the lake, is the market for Russian copper.

Lake Balkash, which receives the Ili, is one of the largest of the salt-water lakes so common in Asia, and lies 514 feet above the sea level. It is 330 miles long, and only fifty-six feet deep, and contains many fish, in spite of the fact that it is usually frozen till late

in the spring. Like the Sea of Aral, it was formerly far more extensive than it is at present ; but the water is gradually drying up from all this region, and the population are driven elsewhere to seek for food. Immediately west of Lake Balkash are grassy steppes, but the ground soon falls, and gives place to marshes and salt lakes, and again to the monotonous sandy desert which lies round the Sea of Aral and between it and the Caspian Sea. Here is the sandy plateau of Ust-Urt, 650 feet above the sea, with a tract along the Caspian, included in the government of Transcaucasia. The Sea of Aral, as its name implies ("The Sea of Islands"), is studded with islands. It was once far more extensive, and would probably have dried up long ago had it not been for the great rivers that empty themselves into it. The Caspian Sea, which, except on the south, is entirely surrounded by Russian soil, is eighty-four feet below the sea level. It swarms with fish, especially sturgeon. Along the coast are springs of naphtha, sulphur, and brine. The few inhabitants of the country we have been considering are nomad tribes of Kirghis.

#### SIBERIA.

North of the Sea of Aral we may be said to enter Siberia, which was conquered for Russia in 1579 by a handful of adventurers under the Cossack Jermak, and has since become the place for Russian political exiles. Long before its conquest, it traded in furs and metals with the merchants of Novgorod.

As we have said, mountain ranges and the river Amour divide Siberia on the south from the Chinese Empire ; *while the Ourals, on the west, separate it from*

Europe. The ground gradually slopes upwards from the low, ice-bound shores of the Arctic Ocean till it reaches the Altai chain, whose highest peaks attain the height of 11,000 feet. From their granite, porphyry, and crystalline rocks gold, silver, tin, lead, and copper are obtained. The north coast of Siberia is jagged and cut into deep bays and promontories, and the country is drained by the great river systems of the Obi, the Yenesei, and the Lena.

#### 1. Climate.

The climate of Siberia becomes, of course, steadily colder as we approach the north. On the west, where southerly winds prevail, and among the well-wooded and well-watered Altai, it is temperate and even hot; but east of the Lena north-east winds blow constantly, the earth is frozen for hundreds of feet, and even the surface only thaws from the middle of July to the middle of September, when it is intensely hot. This is the region of the greatest cold in the world. All through the north a wonderful silence prevails, and the transparency of the air allows the aurora borealis to shine with marvellous brilliancy. Round the Sea of Okhotsk the north-west winds, which blow from September to April, are so violent that people are sometimes blown down the mountain sides. The rainfall in this part is about forty inches.

#### 2. Plants.

In the extreme north only lichens and mosses will grow. This belt is succeeded by one where larches, birches, pines, cedars, and berry-producing plants flourish, and in the wetter countries round the mountain-girdled Sea of Okhotsk are flowers of many kinds,

especially lilies, and oaks, elms, ashes, poplars, and cork-trees grow on the hills. Among the warm southern valleys Siberian cherries, apricots, vegetables, and grains are cultivated.

### 3. Animals.

In the Siberian rivers the frozen remains of elephants, rhinoceroses, and a huge beast called a mammoth, belonging to the ancient world, yield quantities of excellent ivory. The presence of these beasts so far north shows us that in former ages the climate must have been warmer than that of even the south of Europe. At present the Siberian animals are bears, squirrels, deer, hares, and goats, much larger than the European ones; herds of wolves, antelopes, wild horses, and reindeer, besides the fur-bearing tribe of sables, ermines, zibellines, white, black, and red foxes, and white hares. Wherever the soil is sandy, multitudes of burrowing creatures, such as lemmings and marmots, are to be met with. Camels have been acclimatized in the south, and horses and dogs in the north; but it is a curious fact, that these creatures change their appearance in course of time. The yak, a kind of long-haired sheep, is found in the Upper Yenesei basin. Bees have been introduced in the south, and have multiplied enormously; and the Amour, and some of the eastern rivers, are filled with salmon, sterlet, sturgeon, and other fish.

### 4. Productions.

All kinds of minerals are worked and exported from the Altai mountains and their spurs, and from the Ourals, which yield also platinum; and these, with ivory and furs, are the chief articles of export. In the south cattle-breeding is the main industry.

### 5. People.

Siberia was formerly peopled by an ancient race called *Tchouds*, of Finnish extraction, who were civilized and made the most of the resources of the country. To this race also belong the Voguls under the Ourals, the *Ostiaks* and Samoyedes of the north, as far as the Yenesei, and the Soyots about the Upper Yenesei, some 60,000 in all. With the thirteenth century came the Mongols, now represented by the *Buriats*, *Tunguses*, *Kalmucks*, *Chinese*, and *Mantchus* of East Siberia and round Lake Baikal, amounting to 350,000. The extreme north-east is occupied by the *Koriaks*, *Khamschatdales*, and *Chukchis*, but these, with the *Ainos* of Saghalien, do not number more than 25,000. Besides these are 200,000 *Yakuts* of Turkish race in the basin of the Lena, and 80,000 Tatars. The Russians (4,500,000) are to be found principally in the large towns. The west and south-west are occupied by the *Kirghis*.

### 6. Religions.

Excepting the Russians, and some of the Khamschatdales, Tatars, Chukchis, Voguls, Samoyedes, Tunguses, and Buriats, who are *Christians*, by far the greater proportion of the inhabitants of Siberia are either *Buddhists* (followers of Buddha) or *Shamanists*, with a religion which enjoins belief in magicians who are supposed to talk with the dead.

### 7. Government.

Siberia is divided into the two governments of East Siberia, capital Irkutsk, and West Siberia, capital Omsk. These are again subdivided into provinces, themselves divided into circles and districts.

**Basin of the Obi and Irtysh.**

The whole of the wide extent of country from lat. 61° N. to 49°, and from the Oural mountains to the town of Tomsk, is drained by a number of large rivers, which all empty themselves finally into one stream, and flow northwards to the Arctic Ocean under the name of the Obi. On the west side the principal tributaries are the Ishim and the Tobol, both of which rise in the barren lake-covered steppe of Ishim, inhabited by Kirghis tribes. The mining town of *Ekaterinburg* (25,000) lies among the Ourals at the head of a small stream, which falls into the Tobol. The Tobol joins the Irtysh further north at *Tobolsk* (15,000). *Tobolsk* is a great fish market, and is inhabited chiefly by *Ostiaks*. The source of the Irtysh is in Mongolia, among the Altai mountains. It crosses the frontier at Lake Zaisan (famous for its yield of fish), and has a north-west course through the magnificent pastures on the spurs of the Altai, past the agricultural town of *Semipalatinsk* (10,000). Further north, between the Irtysh and the Obi, is the rolling park-like Barabinska steppe, with its numerous lakes, the home of many wild fowl, and its forests of birches, interspersed with stretches of fertile soil. Here multitudes of antelopes may be seen grazing, as well as the sheep and camels that constitute the wealth of the wandering Kirghis tribes. *Omsk* (30,000), the capital of West Siberia, is built at the junction of the Irtysh and the Om, and is a fortified town, with many learned societies. The head-streams of the Obi rise among the Altai, and drain a mountainous district, which yields an enormous supply of minerals, especially copper, iron, lead, tin, nickel,

and silver. Gold is found in many of the river sands, and the porphyry, granite, and marble rocks are very valuable. The Obi passes *Barnaul* (14,000), the centre of the mining traffic, bounds the *Barabinska* steppe on the east, and receives the river *Tom* below *Tomsk*. The *Tom* rises near *Lake Altai*, and has a northerly course. Coal is found in its neighbourhood, and gold mines are worked south of *Tomsk* (30,000), a university town, which trades largely with *Bokhara*. North of *Tomsk* the country is very thinly populated, and after the junction of the *Obi* and the *Irtish*, the river enters the region of the tundras or frozen marshes, and falls into the gulf of *Obi* after a course of 3,000 miles. Like the other Siberian rivers, the *Obi* is navigable through almost the whole length of its course, or rather *would* be navigable were it not frozen for so many months of the year.

#### Basin of the Yenesei and Angara.

The main source of the *Yenesei* is west of *Lake Kosgol*, a large lake of *Mongolia*. The river flows for some distance through a mountainous country till it enters *Siberia* by a breach between the *Altai* and the *Sayansk* chain (11,000 feet), composed of crystalline rocks of various kinds, mixed with carboniferous and even basaltic formations. The slopes are wooded, principally with cedars and larches, and the shores of the lakes are fringed with poplars. Coal is largely worked, and there is a rich graphite or plumbago mine in the syenite (a kind of crystalline rock), north of *Lake Kosgol*, which is the property of a company of *Nuremburg*. Other metals are also abundant.

The country is inhabited by Tunguses, a lively race, and to the east by the kindred Buriats. The towns are few, and almost the only place of any importance is *Krasnoiarsk* (14,000), on the Yenesei, which here has gold-yielding sands. The Selenga, the most easterly branch of the Yenesei, rises by one of its streams in the high lands of Mongolia, near the old town of Karakorum, and by the other among the mountains west of Lake Kosgol. After collecting many streams it waters the frontier town of *Kiakhta* (10,000), the market for Chinese goods; and flowing north enters Lake Baikal, whence it emerges under the name of Angara.

Lake Baikal is the largest fresh water lake in Asia, and of an enormous depth. It is situated on a high plateau with a mountain range down the west side. Its length is 360 miles, and its mean depth 850 feet; but soundings have in places been taken as low as 4,500 feet. The lake, which was formerly larger than it is at present, contains salmon, sturgeon, and a kind of seal that contrives to live in spite of the water being frozen during all the winter months. Steamers ply up and down the whole summer. The town of *Irkutsk* (32,000), on the Angara, is the largest town in Siberia, and the capital of the government of Eastern Siberia. It manufactures porcelain and pottery, has some large distilleries, a library, a theatre, and a geographical society. After its junction with the Oka, the Angara receives the name of Tunguska, and then flows due west till it falls into the Yenesei. The Yenesei from this point has a direct northerly course through gradually falling ground (some of which, between Turkhansk and Yeneseisk, is extremely fertile),

and falls into the Gulf of Yenesei after a course of 3,400 miles.

#### Basin of the Lena and the Aldan.

A chain of low hills separates the Angara from the Lena, which rises to the west of Lake Baikal, as its large tributary the Vitim does to the east. Beyond the Vitim are the Yablonoi or "Apple" range, mostly about 7,000 feet high, with peaks of granite, sandstone, or slaty rocks. Those mountains form the watershed between the systems of the Lena and the Amour. They bear the name of Yablonoi as far as the Sea of Okhotsk, and then take that of Stanovoi, sending out spurs in various directions, and finally merging into the mountain range of Khamschatka. The upper course of the Lena (whose waters swarm everywhere with fish) is through vast pine forests, good pastures, and a fertile tableland. Silver-veined lead, copper, iron, and coal are found in its basin, and also salt and sulphur. The plateau east of the Yenesei is composed of the hardest slaty, sandstone, and limestone rocks, and the Lena is therefore compelled to take a wide curve towards the east till it can cut its way through softer ground. It is in this part that the Turkish race of the Yakuts have fixed their habitations, the region of the greatest cold in the world. At *Yakutsk* (5,000) the mean annual temperature is the same as that on the crest of Mont Blanc; but from the stillness and clearness of the air the climate is not unhealthy, and fruits are known to ripen in the short summer. North of *Yakutsk* the Lena receives the Aldan, which rises on the slopes of the Yablonoi mountains, and drains the metalliferous country round the Aldan range. Coal

is obtained from the Verkhoianskoi chain, north of the Aldan. The remaining course of the Lena is through low frozen marshes, and the shore opposite its mouth is broken up into a little archipelago. The total length of the Lena is 2,700 miles.

### Basin of the Amour.

The Amour is composed of two branches — the Argun, called in its upper course the Kerulen, which rises among the mountains in the north of Mongolia; and the Shilka or Onon, whose source is on the north side of the same range. The two rivers girdle the steppe of Nertchinsk, and join in a high plateau between the Yablonoi and Khingan ranges. From this point the Amour, as it is now called, forms for many hundreds of miles the boundary between the Russian and Chinese Empires, and after receiving the Usuri on its right bank flows north, and enters the Gulf of Tartary opposite the island of Saghalien after a course of 2,600 miles.

On the east, between the Amour, the Usuri, and the Gulf of Tartary, is a tongue of land with a low sandstone mountain chain, named the Sikhota-alin. This region contains many streams which are valuable for commerce, as the Amour is barred by ice the greater part of the year. The rainfall all along the coast is heavy, and the vegetation luxuriant. Among other plants that grow here is a herb called *ginseng*, considered by the Chinese a certain cure for various illnesses. The towns in the Amour basin are small, and at present unimportant. Some traffic goes through *Blagoveschensk*, on the frontier, and *Nikolaievsk*

opposite Saghalien. *Vladivostok* (9,000), on Victoria Bay, has the most trade.

#### KHAMSCHATKA.

As we have said, the mountains sweep round the Sea of Okhotsk, throwing out spurs on all sides, till they end, on the north-east, in Cape Vostotchni, in Behring Strait, in the country of the Tchukches, and in the south in the volcanic peninsula of *Khamschatka*. The principal range that runs through *Khamschatka* is composed of granite and crystalline rocks, largely intermixed with basalt and lava. Many of these peaks are still active volcanoes, and the highest reaches 16,000 feet. The soil is very rich, and blazes with flowers, and the mountains are covered with pines. Whales and seals are caught off the coast, and fur-bearing animals are trapped inland. Of these the sables are the most plentiful.

The people are clean and industrious.

#### SAGHALIEN.

Saghalien, or Sakhalin, on the west side of the Sea of Okhotsk, is an island about 550 miles long, with a breadth in the centre of 80 miles. Its surface is high and wooded, and the rocks contain some coal; but the climate is cold and foggy, and unfavourable to agriculture. The inhabitants, chiefly Ainos and Tunguses, number about 150,000. Saghalien was ceded by Japap to the Russians in 1875, in exchange for the Kurile Isles. It is now a convict settlement.

## CHAPTER IX.

## JAPAN.

BETWEEN the peninsula of Kamschatka and the large island of Yezo rise the *Kurile* Islands, a small, bare, thinly-inhabited group, recently ceded to Japan by Russia, in exchange for Saghalien. The Kurile Islands are the northernmost possessions of the Japanese Empire, which extends on the south as far as the *Loo Chow* group (lat. 27° N., lat. 128° E. long.), whose sovereignty is still a matter of dispute between Japan and China. The total length of this Empire of Islands is about 1,800 miles, and the number of islands, large and small, is reckoned at 4,000. The central group, or *Japan* proper, contains the four large islands of *Yezo*, *Hondo*, *Shikoko*, and *Kiushiu*, which are bounded on the north by the Sea of Okotsk, on the west by the Sea of Japan, on the south by the Tunghai, or Eastern Sea, and on the east by the North Pacific.

## 1. Physical Features.

Like most of these islands, the Japan (or Nippon) group are volcanic, with a broken coast-line, and mountain ranges down the centre. These mountains attain their greatest height in the volcanic cone of Fusijama, in Hondo, which is more than 12,000 feet above the sea level, and can be seen for nearly 100 miles. Many of the volcanoes are still active, and on their fertile lava soil rich crops are grown. Lakes are few and small, but rivers are numerous, though the longest—the Shinano, in Hondo—does not exceed 180 miles in

length. To the south, between Hondo and Shikoku, lies the beautiful island-covered "Inland Sea," celebrated for its magnificent tropical vegetation, but difficult to navigate on account of the endless rocks.

## 2. Climate.

The climate of the Japanese islands is very variable, though on the whole it is healthy. Hondo and the islands to the south are affected on their east coasts by the warm Kuro Siwo, or Japan current, tempered by sea breezes and heavy rains; but the west is much colder, owing to the lack of a warm current, and here the snow lies and rivers freeze in winter. Yezo, on the north, which is also out of reach of this Japanese Gulf Stream, has a very cold climate, and much snow. Rain is everywhere plentiful, and earthquakes are common, but generally harmless, and great revolving storms, or typhoons, rage over the seas.

## 3. Productions.

Gold, silver, iron, copper, coal (especially in Yezo), and a particular kind of magnetic iron used for sword blades, are all found in Japan, besides granite and marble. Rice is grown wherever it is possible, especially along the rivers and in the plain of Jedo (Hondo), and two crops can be gathered in the year. Besides rice, barley, wheat, millet, ginseng, and buckwheat are grown on the higher lands, and plums, oranges, grapes, and other fruits and vegetables, cover the plains and lower hill slopes. There are also large plantations of tea and cotton, tobacco, sugar, mulberries, poppies, and indigo in Shikoku. The forests of Japan are of wide extent, and the most valuable trees are bamboo, camphor, oak,

cypress, and the lacquer tree. Tree-ferns grow to a great height, and roses, azaleas, magnolias, hydrangeas, and water-lilies come to great perfection.

The principal manufactures are those of silk, china, lacquer, and paper.

#### 4. Fauna.

Japan contains few singing-birds and few domestic animals, except oxen, horses, and poultry. Crows and silkworms are found everywhere in great numbers. Bears, monkeys, boars, and antelopes still live in the more remote parts of Hondo; and herrings, shell-fish, and a few salmon exist in the rivers and seas.

Silk and tea are the chief exports, and wool and cotton the chief imports.

#### 5. People and History.

The Japanese Empire is occupied by two races, each quite distinct from the other. The *Ainos*, who once inhabited all the larger islands, have been driven north by the invaders, and are now confined to Yezo, the Kuriles, and Saghalien. Even here they are rapidly diminishing. They are harmless, handsome creatures, with much hair on their bodies, and are greatly despised by their conquerors. The origin of the *Japanese* is uncertain, though their appearance would lead us to suppose that they were related to the Mongol race. They are quick and clever, but more prone to adopt the inventions of others than to invent themselves, and they long ago borrowed their military system from the Chinese. The emperor or mikado was at first absolute; but before the end of the twelfth century—some writers put it as early as the tenth—he fell under the dominion of two powerful clans, a state of things which ended

in a civil war, and the conquest of the *Taira* clan by the *Minamotos*. After this, various clans, with a *tycoon* at their head, obtained possession of the actual sovereignty (although there was always a nominal ruler or mikado), till, in 1603, the family of the *Tokingawas* got the upper hand, and ruled till 1868, when a revolution broke out, and the mikado or emperor regained the power for himself. During the government of the *Tokingawas* Japan was divided into provinces, each ruled by a *daimio*, assisted by a council, and with independent laws. The people were split up into classes, including the daimios, the nobles, the priests, the mechanics, the merchants, the farmers, and a miscellaneous class; and the country was sealed up from the prying eyes of other nations by the orders of the Shogun or commander-in-chief, the principal vassal of the mikado. As we have said, this state of things lasted till 1868, when the rest of the nobles grew jealous and the people discontented, and the revolution took place, by which the power of the nobles was broken. The present government consists of the mikado, assisted by a council; under them are the governors of the seventy-two provinces.

The population of Japan is 36,000,000. The religions are the ancient Nature-worship, or *Shintoism*; *Buddhism* (introduced in the sixth century); and *Confucianism*, which is popular with the educated classes.

## 6. Towns.

In *Yezo*, *Hakodate*, facing *Hondo*, on the *Sugaru Strait*, is the most important town, and has a good harbour. The principal towns in *Hondo* are built on the broken south-east coast, and of these the chief is

*Yedo*, or *Tokio* (1,000,000), on a rich plain at the head of the gulf, with some fine buildings, and the ruins of the old palaces of the nobles. It is now the residence of the mikado. The people occupy themselves in making bronze and lacquer. A railway connects *Tokio* with *Yokohama*, the centre of the European trade, also situated on the Gulf of *Tokio*. One hundred miles east of it lies the dormant volcano of *Fusijama*, the sacred mountain of the Japanese, which they love to paint on their commonest works of art. West of the beautiful *Lake Biwa*, and on the river *Yodo*, is the old religious capital of Japan, *Kioto* (822,000), which contains nearly a thousand Buddhist temples, besides Shinto shrines. Each of these temples contains an enormous number of idols, while one possesses the figure of the great Buddha visited by pilgrims. *Kioto* is a seat of learning, and is inhabited by many literary people. It has some of the largest lacquer factories in Japan. This ware is also made at *Satsuma*. At the mouth of the *Yodo*, and on the Inland Sea, is *Osaka* (582,000), built on several small islands. It has lost much of its trade since other ports have been thrown open to foreigners, and its place taken by *Hiogo* (414,000), on the west of the bay. *Niigata* (57,000), on the west of *Hondo*, is a flourishing town, and one of the ports opened by treaty for foreign trade. *Nagasaki*, on the west of *Kiushiu*, has an excellent harbour.

## LOO-CHOW ISLANDS.

The *Loo-Chow*, or *Liu-Kiu Islands*, which lie considerably south of *Kiushiu*, are inhabited partly by a race akin to the Japanese, and partly by one related to the Chinese. The language of Great *Loo-Chow Island*

resembles Japanese, and the people are chiefly Buddhist. Part of the group belongs to Japan, and has done so since the twelfth century, but the rest consider themselves as a dependency of China.

The islands are hilly and fertile, and have an excellent climate.

The small and unimportant *Bonin* group (30° N. lat., 142° 11' E. long.) also are a Japanese possession.

## CHAPTER X.

### THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

BESIDES the numerous states under the direct rule of China, there are others, such as Tibet and the peninsula of Korea, which, though governing themselves, are yet subject to Chinese control, with regard to their relations with foreign powers. We shall therefore consider them altogether as the "Chinese Empire."

This immense country, which is bounded on the north and west by the Russian Empire, on the south by India, Burmah, Siam, Annam, and the China Sea, and on the east by the Eastern Sea, the Yellow Sea, and the Sea of Japan, has a seaboard of 3,350 miles, and a northern frontier of 3,300 miles. It is larger than the whole of Europe, and has (in China Proper) a denser population than any other quarter of the globe, many of its inhabitants, indeed, spending their entire lives in boats and in the water, never going on land.

#### I. Physical Features.

The Chinese Empire narrows in the west to the plateau of Pamir, the birthplace of so many different mountain chains. To the north are the Thian Shan,

the Altai, the Sayansk, and some lower ranges ; while the Amour divides north-east Mongolia and Mantchuria from Siberia. To the south are the Hindoo Koosh and Kuen-lun, which bounds on the south the well-watered plateau of eastern Turkestan ; and beyond the Kuen-lun are the Karakoram chain and the great Himalayas, the latter dividing the high tableland of Tibet from Hindostan. East of Tibet the Yun-ling mountains take a northerly direction, and beyond them is China proper, with its rich plains, great rivers, and endless mountain ranges, varying from 9,000 to 16,000 feet, with a wide belt of low land skirting the Yellow Sea. North of China is the plateau of Mongolia (where rise most of the Siberian rivers), with the stony desert of Gobi or Shamo, bounded on the east by the Khingan mountains.

All these countries we shall consider separately.

Eastern Turkestan is drained by the river Tarim, which falls into the lake of Lob-nor. The greater part of Mongolia, and much of Tibet, is also watered by lake-streams ; but in the south of the last-named country rises the Sanpu, or Brahmapootra. In the high lands east of the Kuen-lun is the source of the Yang-tse-kiang, while the Hoang-ho rises among the lakes south of the Burkhan Buddha range ; and on the south-east of Tibet are the head streams of the Irawadi and Mekhong, rivers of the Burmah-Siamese peninsula.

We shall now proceed to examine each country separately, and shall begin with

CHINA PROPER, THE "CENTRAL FLOWERY LAND."

The state which gives its name to the rest of the empire lies south of the Mongolia and Manchuria, east

of Tibet and Burmah, and north of Annam. The three seas which bound it on the east side are called the Whang-hai or Yellow Sea, the Tung-hai or Eastern Sea, and Nan-hai or South Sea, also known as the China Sea. Down the coast are a number of small islands, and the large ones of Formosa and Hainan. China measures 1,400 miles each way, and is divided into eighteen provinces, each of which is many times subdivided for the purposes of government.

### 1. Physical Features.

The north of China is watered by the Hoang-ho, which, after flowing in two gigantic loops, enters the sea through a wide plain bordering the Gulf of Pechili. South of the Hoang-ho is the Peling range, a crystalline chain, 11,000 feet high, which forms the watershed between the tributaries of the Hoang-ho and those of the Yang-tse-kiang. This last river drains an immense extent of high fertile country, with rich plains and fruitful valleys, the latter part of its course being through very low ground. Each of the tributaries on the right bank separates some low ranges, and rises in the Nan-ling mountains on the south. Beyond these is the basin of the Choo-kiang or Canton river; while the south-west is the rich well-watered province of Yunnan, intersected with mountains, rising from 7,000 feet in the south to 17,000 in the north.

### 2. Climate.

The climate of China is healthy, and little subject to pestilences. In the north it is very cold, and snow falls in winter; but the summers are very hot, especially in the south. Rain is plentiful, but varies in amount from twenty-eight inches at Peking, in the north, to

seventy at Canton, on the China Sea. Here the rainy season lasts from April to October, when the south-west monsoon or periodical blows; while in the centre the year is divided into two rainy and two dry seasons. The south coast is particularly liable to the great revolving storms called typhoons.

### 3. Productions.

China is very rich, both in mineral and vegetable productions. Along the middle and lower course of the river Hoang-ho is a plain of yellow earth or clay, supposed to be the decomposed rocks of the Mongolian steppe, which have gradually drifted here. This clay is admirable for making into porcelain, and also for agricultural purposes. Here immense crops of wheat, barley, tobacco, and rice are raised. Further south, in the district between the Hoang-ho (or Yellow River) and Yang-tse-kiang, are mulberry-trees for rearing silk-worms, tea plantations on the hill slopes, cotton, spices, millet, rice, grapes, pepper, sugar, and poppies for opium. Beautiful azaleas, roses, camellias, rhododendrons, and other flowering shrubs, grow everywhere throughout China. The lower slopes of the hills are covered with camphor, oak, and banyan-trees, and the mountains of the west are the home of the rhubarb. The south is the great opium and indigo land, and abounds in fruit. Rice is everywhere the staple food of the people; for besides the numerous rivers, China is everywhere intersected by canals, which afford the moisture necessary for its growth.

### 4. Minerals.

*Coal* is found most largely in the northern provinces, both north and south of the crystalline Peling range,

and in the provinces of Szchuen, Hu-nan, Shansi, and Pechili. *Cinnabar* is obtained from various parts of the Hoang-ho basin; *iron* and *copper* from the north-east and from the south province of Yunnan, which is richer in metals than any of the rest; *gold* and *silver* from between the lower Hoang-ho and Yang-tse-kiang, and from Yunnan; *zinc* and *quicksilver* from Yunnan and the island of Hainan; *lapis lazuli* (for pounding into ultramarine) from Hainan and the mountains of Che-kiang on the east coast; *jade* from the Hoang-ho valley; *malachite*, *gypsum*, *salt*, *alum*, *nitre*, and *sulphur* are common in various parts. Fine *marble* is quarried at Canton, and *opals*, *topazes*, *sapphires*, and *amethysts* exist in South Yunnan.

### 5. History and Races.

The history of China extends back over such a vast period, and is so difficult to recollect, that we shall only give the very few facts and names necessary to be known.

The inhabitants of China, a branch of the vast Mongol race, are supposed to have come, like almost all these nations, from the plateau of Pamir, and to have settled down in the northern province of Shensi. When this took place no one knows, but it must have been at a very early period; for it was already a matter of history in the year B.C. 2637, which is the earliest date recorded in the calendar constructed by one of the greatest of their emperors—the first Hoang-ti. Three dynasties succeeded each other, boasting many wise and far-seeing monarchs, who employed themselves in governing well at home, and in defeating the hordes of Tatars who, from the year 1,000 B.C., began to

ravage the empire. For several hundreds of years, however, before the fall of the third dynasty, the emperors had only the shadow of power, and independent kingdoms arose in all parts. At length, in the middle of the third century B.C., a prince of the Tsin kingdom, who took the name of Hoang-ti, defeated and subdued all the other princes, and under him China was united once more. Hoang-ti was a great reformer, and made magnificent roads all over his empire, and built the Great Wall, an earthwork with frequent towers, which stretched on the north for 1,200 miles, and was intended to keep out the Tatars. More than 450 years before this (B.C. 604) the great reformer and philosopher Lao-tse was born, and after a long life, spent chiefly in retirement, was succeeded by Confucius, born in 551, whose writings and religion have many followers even at the present day. In the first century A.D. Buddhism was introduced from India, and speedily made many converts. For many centuries there is little to record, and down to the reign of the great Taitsong, in the ninth century, the history of China is that of wars, both within and without the empire. Then followed a period of prosperity and good government, though not a very long one. Early in the thirteenth century A.D. a horde of the Mongol or Tatar branch of the Mongol race, which was shortly to overwhelm Europe, poured into China, under Genghis Khan, and took Peking in 1215. The conquest was finished in 1268 by the famous Kublai Khan, and the invaders soon adopted Chinese customs, and tried to make themselves one with the people. The Chinese, however, always hated them, and the Mongols were expelled in less than a century, and

were succeeded, in 1368, by the founder of the Ming dynasty. In 1644 the Mantchus dwelling to the north of China were called in to put down a rebellion, and afterwards refused to leave the country. Fortunately their kings were wise and able, and under their government China has prospered at home, and extended her dominions abroad. During the reign of the great Keen Lung, in the eighteenth century, Chinese supremacy over Tibet was established, and Eastern Turkestan was added to the empire.

#### 6. Government.

The Chinese are a very conservative people, who until quite lately strongly objected to any interference on the part of foreign nations, or alterations in their own established customs, some of which date back to mythical times. They are governed by an emperor, who is also the high priest, and is absolute. Under him is a council, who see to the carrying out of the laws, and the mandarins, or high officers, governing the provinces.

#### 7. Religions.

Education is widely spread among the Chinese ; for examinations are the key to every post of honour, and comparatively few of that vast population are unable to read or write.

The religions are many. The doctrines of the philosophers, Lao-tse and Confucius, have still great hold on the people, especially on the upper classes. Mahommedanism is said to be the faith of 30,000,000 in the north and north-west provinces ; but the bulk of the Chinese are Buddhists, and deeply superstitious.

The names of the provinces are as follows :

Pechili.	Ngan-whei.
Shansi.	Che-kiang.
Shensi.	Fu-kien.
Kansu.	Kiangsi.
Szchuen.	Hunan.
Hupe.	Kwei-chau.
Honan.	Yunnan.
Shantung.	Kwangsi.
Kiangsu.	Kwan-tung.

Also the islands of Formosa and Hainan.

### 8. Towns and River Basins.

Out of the vast number of towns in China we have only space to mention a few. The most northerly of these is *Pekin* (1,000,000), the capital (province of Pechili), which lies in the basin of the *Pei-ho*, a river formed by the union of many streams, and flowing into the Gulf of Pechili. Like many other Eastern cities, *Pekin* gives an impression of decay, from the neglect of its streets and fine public buildings. It was made the capital of the empire by *Kublai Khan* in 1282, and its Winter Palace was sacked by the English in 1860. Further down the *Pei-ho* is *Tientsin* (93,000), which has large mines of coal, iron, and copper in the neighbourhood.

As we have said, the *Hoang-ho* rises among some lakes south of the *Burkhan Buddha* range, and after winding north-east makes a great loop into Mongolia, divides the provinces of *Shensi* and *Shansi*, then turns again to the north-east, and flows into the *Pechili* Gulf, after a winding course of 2,000 miles. It is of little use for commercial or navigating purposes, on account

of its fierce torrent. The Yang-tse-kiang rises in Tibet among the Kuen-lun mountains, and has a course of 3,300 miles before it reaches the sea. It enters China west of the province of Szchuen (added, like Yunnan, to the empire about 100 B.C.), and drains a huge basin, and the most fertile and populous soil in China. In its lower course it flows past several large lakes, receives many navigable tributaries, and waters the great city of *Hankow* (700,000) in the midst of a beautiful lake district. Its way then lies past rich undulating country with large towns and a teeming population. Among the towns are *Ngan-king* and *Nanking* (130,000), once famous for its porcelain tower, and its linen manufacture. The Yang-tse-kiang finally enters the sea by a broad estuary. The great commercial city of *Shanghai* (600,000), one of the twenty-six Chinese ports thrown open by treaty for foreign trade, is situated on a belt of low marshy land, south of the Yang-tse-kiang estuary. There is a telegraph from Shanghai to Hongkong and Japan. Sailing down the coast, which is thickly studded with islands and large seaport towns, we reach *Canton* (1,500,000), the most populous town in China. It is situated at the head of a gulf, and is connected by a network of canals and streams with two great rivers—the *Sei-khang*, which rises up in Yunnan, and has a course of 900 miles; and the *Pei-kiang*, whose source is in the high Nanling range, which is the watershed for the rivers flowing into the Yang-tse-kiang, and for those flowing into the China Sea. The tide is felt for 180 miles up the river, and the numerous branches of the delta are navigable. Canton is the principal port for foreign trade, and exports largely tea, silk, opium, and porcelain ware. It is the market for the

varied produce of the fertile south. The British island possession of Hongkong lies at the mouth of the Gulf of Canton on one side, and the Portuguese island of *Macao* (60,000) at the other.

### 9. Islands.

*Hainan*, which lies to the east of the Gulf of Tonquin, is a high mass of land, about twice the size of Sicily. The soil is fertile, but the climate is unhealthy, and the island difficult of approach, as its shores are infested with pirates, and subject to hurricanes. Lapis-lazuli, areca, and cocoanuts are the chief articles of export.

*Formosa*, or Tai-wan, to give it the Chinese name, lies between the Loo Choo islands and the province of Fu-kien. It is about 250 miles long, and has a wooded volcanic range of mountains running from north to south, whose highest peak is 12,800 feet. *Formosa* is an adaptation of the epithet "*Hermosa*," or "the beautiful," given it by the Spaniards on account of the picturesque peaks and rich well-watered valleys scattered over the island. The people are partly Chinese and partly of Malay race. The principal productions of the island are sulphur, camphor, maize, petroleum, salt, coal, and fruits.

The chief articles of *export* from China are silk, raw and manufactured, tea, sugar, camphor, and porcelain. The *imports* are opium, cotton, and wool. The province of Yunnan also exports to Burmah and India silk, quicksilver, tea, carpets, and vermilion, in exchange for ivory and birds' nests. The population of China may be estimated at about 350,000,000. That of Tibet, Zungaria, Mongolia, Manchuria, and East Turkestan,

### 3. Climate.

The climate in the north is very cold, and the rivers are often completely frozen over ; but in the summer the hot south-west monsoon blows, and at this time the heat is great all over the country.

The island of *Quelpart* lies to the south of Korea.

### MANTCHURIA.

North of the Shan-yan-alin range (11,000 feet), which forms the frontier of Korea, is the country of Mantchuria, ruled by a Chinese governor, and divided into three provinces. It is further separated from Korea by a strip of neutral territory, while the Amour cuts it off from Russian soil ; and the Khingan Mountains may be considered the boundary on the side of Mongolia.

### 1. Productions.

The country is crossed in the north by the wooded Khe-lun-tsyau Mountains, containing the head waters of the Sungari river, which, after receiving many tributaries on both banks, falls into the Amour. East of the Khingan Mountains is a high, bare, salt steppe ; the centre of the country consists of undulating, grassy plains, affording pasture for cattle ; and in the south, along the basin of the Liao-ho, which falls into the Gulf of Liao-tung, are rich fields of tobacco, rice, hemp, and cotton. Ginseng is also obtained from Mantchuria, and minerals exist in abundance.

### 2. Climate.

In the north the climate resembles that of East Siberia in its long, cold winters and hot summers. Further south it is much warmer, and is everywhere healthy.

### 3. People.

The *Mantchus* are Mongolian, but belong to the Tungús branch, who inhabit so large an extent of East Siberia. Unlike the central Asiatic Mongols, the Mantchus prefer fixed habitations, and are both an agricultural and a hunting people. They invaded China in the seventeenth century, conquered the kingdom, and settled there in great numbers. Since that time the Chinese of the northern provinces have overflowed into Manchuria, and imposed their language on the natives.

*Buddhism* may be considered the state religion, but there are numerous Mahommedans.

### 4. Towns.

The old capital of *Mukden* (180,000) is in the province of Liao-tung, east of the river Liao-ho. Liao-tung was formerly the scene of numerous battles, both with the Koreans, and between the Mantchus and Chinese. The new capital, *Girin*, or Kirin Oula (120,000), is in the centre of Manchuria, on the Upper Sungari. *Ningoutu* (60,000), on the Hurka, a branch of the Sungari, and original home of the Mantchus, is a prosperous town; and *Tsitsihai*, on the Nouni, another tributary, is a Chinese penal settlement.

### MONGOLIA.

Mongolia lies north of China, west of Manchuria, and south of Siberia, and contains within its borders the sources of the Yenesei, the Irtysh, the Lena, and the Amour. Towards the north frontier are mountain ranges and large rivers, and here, south of the large lake of Kosgol, the grassy pastures feed large flocks of

sheep, camels, goats, and yaks. To the south of the river Toulâ, on which the holy Buddhist city of *Ourga* (30,000) is built, begins the great stony and sandy desert known as Gobi or Shamo, a plateau varying from 3,000 to 4,000 feet in height, made of a coarse red gravel, and covered here and there with thin patches of grass, and blocks of chalcedony, jasper, and porphyry. Over it are scattered small salt lakes, out of which flow small streams, which lose themselves in the desert. Herds of little antelopes are to be met with in these parts, as well as larks and sand-grouse. The ruins of *Karakorum*, the capital of the old Mongol Empire, are in the midst of the desert. Going south we reach the wooded In-shan range; and on the strip of fertile land between the mountains and the Chinese frontier, rice, hemp, wheat, millet, buckwheat, oats, poppies, and melons grow in profusion. The Great Wall here forms the boundary between Mongolia and China; and *Kalgan*, on the frontier, has a large trade in tea with Siberia. North of the Great Wall are the Alashan Mountains, 11,600 feet at their highest point, with a sandy desert at their feet; and on the further side of the Chinese province of Kansu, which here forms a peninsula, is the Lake of Kokonor. This lake lies at an elevation of 10,000 feet to the south of the Nanshan and to the north of the Burkhan Buddha (15,600) ranges, where the limestone and crystalline rocks yield coal and gold; and trees and flowering shrubs are plentiful, the rhubarb growing as high as 13,000 feet up the mountain sides. Herds of yaks, an animal like a large cow, roam everywhere, as well as the argali, or mountain sheep. To the south are the Kuen-lun Mountains, with a snow line of 14,000 feet.

In all this district it is to be noticed that the frontier-line between Mongolia and Tibet is very undecided.

### 1. Climate.

The climate of Mongolia is very cold in winter and hot in summer, when great sand-storms often take place. The rainfall is very scanty, as the surrounding mountains intercept the clouds, and part of the desert forms one of the "rainless" regions of the globe. Occasionally however, among the mountains, travellers have encountered almost tropical storms. Towards the south the climate is milder.

### 2. People.

The inhabitants belong to the various branches of the Mongol race, of which the principal are the nomadic race of *Khalkas*, in the north, and the *Uruts* and *Turguts*, in the south, belonging to the Kalmuck branch. These have been considerably changed by their intercourse with the Chinese, and have adopted settled ways of life. The Mongols have small oblique eyes, high cheek bones, and flat faces.

### 3. Government.

The Mongols are bound to serve in the Chinese army, and Chinese officials or mandarins govern the different districts, though the people have besides their own princes or khans.

### 4. Religion.

The Mongols are Buddhists, and one-third of the population are lamas or priests, who live at the expense of others, and are not allowed to marry.

## ZUNGARIA.

Zungaria, the kingdom of the Zungars, a Kalmuck tribe, is a wedge of country between the Altai and Thian-shan ranges, and contains the source of the Ili. It has been principally under Chinese rule since 1759, though the valley of the Ili was occupied by a Russian army from 1871 to 1880. The country is intersected by mountain chains and large lake basins, and has been the scene of endless wars. In the north, under the Altai, and extending towards Lake Kosgol, in Mongolia, is a high, bare tableland of clay, covered with flints, but crossed by some streams, on whose banks grow poplars and willows. The valley of the Ili, which rises up in the Thian-shan Mountains, is beautiful, rich, and well wooded; and north of *Kuldja* (15,000), the chief town, on the Ili, which lies among the mountains at a height of 14,000 feet, are mines of coal, iron, lead, marble, and manganese.

## People.

The people are *Tunguses*, one of the great divisions of the Mongols, *Kirghis*, or *Kashgar* tribes, belonging to the Turkish branch. They are either Buddhists or Mahommedans.

## EASTERN TURKESTAN.

The beginnings of the great wooded chain of the Celestial Mountains, or Thian-shan, which culminates in a peak, certainly 26,000 feet high, and possibly 2,000 feet higher, and separates Eastern Turkestan from Russian Turkestan and Zungaria, may be placed to the east of Pamir. As we proceed in a north-easterly direction, we shall find the main range joined on the north by others, held by geographers to form one

system. The whole of *Eastern Turkestan* between the Thian-shan and Kuen-lun ranges is included in the basin of the Tarim, which rises on the Eastern Pamir, and empties itself in the Lob-nor, a lake seventy miles long. The country slopes down on either side from the mountains to the river, which flows through a bed only 1,600 feet above the level of the sea. Between the mountains and the bed of the river, which is low and swampy, stretches a belt of bare desert land, holding buried under its shifting soil the ruins of many cities. About 120 miles to the south-west of Lake Lob-nor is the Altyn-dagh range, an offshoot of the Kuen-lun, and about 14,000 feet high. Round the desert is a fringe of rich land, where fruit, wheat, cotton, flax, and hemp are cultivated; and though the mountains shut out the rain, the fields are watered by streams fed by the melting of the mountain snows. Camels, horses, donkeys, and sheep graze on the mountain pastures; wild hogs are found in the neighbourhood of the rivers, and gazelles and antelopes roam over the plains. On the north, passes 11,000 or 12,000 feet high lead over the Thian-shan; while on the south-west others 17,000, and even 18,000, have to be crossed before Kashmir can be reached.

#### 1. Climate.

Like most of these countries, East Turkestan is subject to extremes of heat and cold. It is likewise liable to dust-storms, and to spring and autumn rains. In the centre it is almost rainless.

#### 2. People.

The population of Eastern Turkestan is estimated at one million and a quarter, mostly belonging to the

Turki branch of the Mongol stock, and consisting of Kirghis or Kashgar tribes, some of whom are Buddhists, and others Mahommedans. The country once formed part of the old Mongol Empire, and after its fall remained in obscure independence till it was conquered by China, in the middle of the eighteenth century.

### 3. Towns.

The old town of *Urumtsi* (15,000), among the East Thian-shan, and on the Mongol frontier, is in the midst of a very fertile district. Wheat, vegetables, fruit, madder, tobacco and cotton-fields, are all fertilized by the mountain streams, which are swelled by the melting of the snows. Gold, and even precious stones, are found in some of the rivers; iron, copper, lead, coal, and saltpetre in the rocks; and sulphur springs are abundant. Near the head of the Kashgar, the head stream of the Tarim, and on a small lake, is *Kashgar* (50,000), the seat of government, with factories of cotton, silk, felt, and carpets. South-east is *Yarkand* (60,000), the old capital, on the Yarkand, another tributary; and south-east again is *Khotan* (40,000), near the Khotan, with large jade mines, gold-fields, and silk factories.

### TIBET.

Little is known of the country of Tibet, whose inhabitants carefully exclude all foreigners, particularly Europeans. It has been ascertained, however, that it is a high tableland, averaging about 16,000 feet, enclosed by the Kuen-lun and Himalaya ranges, and intersected besides by the Karakorum, Yunling, and other mountain chains. In the north is a sandy and stony table-

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land, subject to frightful storms of wind and rain. In the centre are numerous lakes, most of which are salt ; but east and south of these is a belt of rich, grassy country, giving place towards the mountains to deep ravines and thick forests. Here the country is watered by the tributaries of the Yang-tse-kiang and Sanpu, or Brahmapootra, and here also the great rivers of Burmah and Siam—the Irawadi, the Salwen, and the Mekhong—are believed to take their rise. The basin of the Sanpu, or Brahmapootra, which rises near Lake Mansarowar, and flows parallel to the Himalayas, is densely populated, and here, in the midst of a tableland, is Lassa, the capital, and residence of the Chinese governor, and of the Grand Lama, or Buddhist high priest. It is filled with monasteries, and has a large temple decorated with gold and jewels.

### 1. Climate.

The Tibetan climate is exceedingly dry, and over the greater part there is a very slight rainfall in July only. Towards the east, however, where the mountain ranges take different directions, rain-clouds from the Indian and Pacific Oceans can penetrate, and here rain is plentiful ; and this fact, together with the vast body of water arising from the melting of the snows, accounts for the number of rivers rising in this region. The snow-line on the north, or Tibetan side, of the Himalayas is far higher than that on the south, partly owing to the elevation of the plateau, from which the sun's rays are reflected back.

### 2. Government and People.

Tibet, which is divided into seven provinces, each with its chief town, is governed by a Chinese viceroy,

living at Lassa. The people are of Mongol race, but of a Tibetan branch, which is supposed to have originally dwelt in the neighbourhood of Lassa. A very large proportion of the men are lamas, or priests.

### 3. Productions.

Gold and silver are found in great quantities among the mountains at the head of the Indus. Salt is obtained from the lake, and musk is an article of export. The staple commodity of Tibet is, however, the wool of the mountain sheep, which is highly prized all over the world.

### 4. Trade.

The Tibetans import from China bricks, tea, cotton, silk, indigo, precious stones, china, carpets, and spices. They have also a large trade in Indian goods. Lassa is the principal market of the country.

### 5. Fauna.

The number both of wild and domestic animals in Tibet is very large. Of the former are the yak, here domesticated, antelopes, gazelles, wild asses, and bears. These and many others are all natives of the west. In the east are buffaloes, panthers, tigers, and musk deer. Besides these there are sheep, goats with valuable hair, and strong ponies.

## CHAPTER XI.

### BURMAH.

THE empire of Burmah, which is about 500 miles long and 300 broad, is bounded by British India on the west and south-west, by Siam on the south-east, by Yunnan on the east, and by Tibet on the north.

On the Tibetan frontier are a cluster of mountain ranges, which run southwards into Burmah, each range dividing the basin of a large river. To the south the valleys widen, and the ground falls down to the coast. This form of surface is peculiar to the whole peninsula.

The Irawadi, the largest of the Burmese rivers, is believed to rise in the high valleys of East Tibet, and the Patkoi Hills, whose summits are above the limits of perpetual snow, divide its basin from that of the Brahmapootra. South-east is the Sittoung, which after a course of 700 miles empties itself into the Gulf of Martaban; and beyond the Sittoung is the Salwen, whose source is on the borders of Yunnan and Tibet. The lower course of all three rivers lies through British Burmah.

#### **1. Productions.**

Burmah abounds in forest trees, of which the teak, bamboo, gutta-percha, and vanilla are the most valuable. Wheat, maize, cotton, coffee, sago, millet, cloves, cinnamon, indigo, and rice are grown along the valleys and on the lower slopes of the hills. Gold dust is found in all the streams, silver and lead in the mountains of the north-east. Mines of serpentine exist in the Irawadi basin, where amber is also obtained from a dark-red earth, overlaid with red clay. Rubies and sapphires are quarried in the centre, and petroleum wells are frequent in the south.

#### **2. Animals.**

Elephants are numerous in every forest, and yield quantities of ivory. There are also tigers, leopards, and rhinoceroses, and white elephants, which are highly venerated. One of these has several palaces allotted to it, and special attendants.

### 3. Climate.

The climate of Burmah is very hot, except among the mountains of the north. The rainy season coincides with the period of the south-west monsoons, and lasts from the end of May to September, when an amount of rain falls that varies between 100 and 200 inches.

### 4. People.

The *Burmese*, who inhabit the centre of the Empire, and the *Kachyens*, and other independent tribes on the borders of Tibet, belong to the Tibeto-Burmese branch of the Mongol stock; while the *Shans*, who dwell to the south-west, and are tributary to Burmah, are part of the *Tai* branch of the same race. The people, who are Buddhists by religion, are intelligent, hard-working, and often well educated. The Emperor is despotic, especially in the centre of his dominions, but on the outskirts his authority is comparatively slight. The population may be reckoned at 4,000,000.

### 5. History.

We know little of the Burmese Empire in early times; but it is certain that it reached its greatest power from the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries, up to the period of the invasion and conquest of the country by Kublai Khan, Emperor of China, in 1284. For more than 200 years Burmah was broken up into small states; but early in the sixteenth century a new native dynasty was founded by the Princes of Toungu, which, though short-lived, was brilliant. In the first part of the seventeenth century a new empire sprung up in Ava, and flourished till a revolt of the Peguans in the middle of the eighteenth century, when Alompra,

the national hero, headed a rebellion, and became king till his death in 1760. Siam was conquered by one of his successors, but succeeded in partly throwing off the yoke, and in 1793 peace was made between the two countries. A war with England, which broke out in 1824, ended in the cession of Arakan and Assam by the Burmese. Pegu was lost by another war in 1842. Since then affairs have been tolerably quiet. Trade has been brisk, and the communication with China partly re-opened, and the condition of things, though not very settled, is sufficiently flourishing.

#### 6. Towns.

Passing down the Irawadi, the first place of importance we should reach is *Bhamo* (5,000), at the junction of two rivers, and the market for both Indian and Chinese produce. To the south, along the Irawadi, are *Mandalay* (100,000), the present capital, *Amarapura*, and *Ava*, all close together, and all at one time or another the seat of government. Many of the Burmese cities are reduced to frequent ruin by the earthquakes.

### CHAPTER XII.

#### SIAM.

SOUTH-EAST of Burmah, and bounded by Annam on the east, and by the Gulf of Siam on the south, is the Siamese kingdom, which has a length of about 1,000 miles. It is drained on the west by the Meinam, a river which rises in the Laos territory, and flows for most of its course through a low rice-growing country, fertilized in the summer by the inundations of the

river. To the east the ground rises by thickly-wooded terraces into a mountain chain, and beyond lies the great Mekhong, whose source is in the Yunling Mountains, and its mouth in the China Sea. The ground gradually falls from the highlands on the north down to the lowlands of the Meinam and Cambodia. On the borders of Siam and Cambodia is a large lake called "Toulé Sap," whose waters contain an enormous supply of fish. Near the lake are the ruins of the old town of Angkor. The whole country is well wooded, except along the alluvial plains, which produce rice (the chief article of export), indigo, sugar, cotton, and corn. The forest trees, minerals, and wild animals resemble those of Burmah.

#### 1. Climate.

Siam is healthy in its highlands, but is subject to typhoons or periodical hurricanes, and heavy summer rains.

#### 2. People and History.

The *Shans* of North Siam, the *Siamese* of the Meinam basin, and the *Laos* of the centre, all belong to the *Tai* branch of the Mongol race. Along the Mekhong there is, however, another race, *not* of Mongol stock, but akin to the Hindus; while the peninsula of Malacca is peopled by a different race—the *Malays*—who are small, slight, and well-formed, with long hair and pale brown skins. There are also traces of a fourth race, supposed to be the original inhabitants, in the interior of the country.

The Siamese date their annals from the fifth century B.C.; but the first event in their history that can be recorded with certainty is the foundation of Ayuthia,

their capital, in 1350. In 1511 the Portuguese entered the country, and assisted the Siamese in their various wars, probably in that with Cambodia, which was conquered in 1532. Early in the seventeenth century the Dutch arrived, and acquired much influence at the court; and in 1684, by the persuasion of a Greek, the king sent an embassy to Louis XIV. and to Charles II. As we have seen, some of the Siamese territory was lost to Burmah about 1766. The reigning house was expelled in a revolution in 1689, and the present royal family only date from 1782. During this century commercial treaties have been made with England and the United States.

### 3. Government.

The Siamese government is carried on by means of a king, a vice-king, and a governor for each of the forty-one provinces. Many of these subject provinces, both in the north and in the Malay peninsula, only pay a nominal tribute.

The population of the whole country is 5,750,000, most of them Buddhists.

### 4. Towns.

*Ayuthia*, on the Meinam, has a large elephant park, and the ruins of many temples. *Bangkok* (40,000), on the delta of the Meinam, looks picturesque from a distance, owing to its thick foliage and large Buddhist temples; but it is squalid and wretched in reality. It is a market for the Chinese and British merchants.

### SIAMESE MALACCA.

*Siamese Malacca*, or Lower Siam, lies along the east shores of the Gulf of Siam, and is divided into small

sultanates, each of which pays a gold or silver tree every three years to the king of Siam. All these states were conquered by the Siamese in 1821. *Queddah*, on the west coast, is the principal town. Both shores are thickly studded with islands.

#### MALAY STATES.

The remainder of the Malay peninsula is inhabited by Malays, and divided into small states, all under the protection of Britain. A high, well-wooded chain of mountains which runs down the centre, is supposed to reach 7,000 feet, and sends down small rivers to the China Sea. These mountains contain immense stores of tin.

#### Products.

Tea, coffee, cinchona, indigo, rice, cloves, pepper, sago, nutmegs, tobacco, cotton, sugar, and the betel-nut, so highly prized by the natives of the East, grow both on the mainland and on the islands.

#### Climate.

Owing to the neighbourhood of the sea, the climate is less hot than in Siam. The rainfall varies from sixty to ninety inches.

*Singapore* is on an island at the extremity of the peninsula.

#### ANNAM, ALSO KNOWN AS COCHIN CHINA.

Annam is divided from Siam and Cambodia by a range of mountains, which form the watershed for the tributaries of the Mekhong, and for the rivers which run into the China Sea, its eastern boundary. The coast is everywhere very low, but contains some good

harbours. To the north is the large province of *Tonquin*. Tonquin is mountainous in the north and centre, and slopes gradually down to the sea. It is drained by the Song-ka river, which rises high in Yunnan, and flows in a south-easterly direction into the Gulf of Tonquin.

### 1. Products.

Like most of these rivers, the Song-ka sands yield gold. Mines of gold, silver, lead, iron, salt, tin, and coal have also been discovered in Annam. Rice and cinnamon, silk, betel-nuts, eagle wood, and sugar are the principal articles of cultivation and export. Cochin China fowls come from here, and fish are most plentiful.

### 2. People and History.

The country on the left bank of the Mekhong is subject to Annam, and is settled by some half-wild tribes called *Moi* and the *Laos* (of the Tai family). The inhabitants of Tonquin and the Cochin Chinese belong to the Annamese branch of the Mongol race, and are reckoned at 2,100,000. They are lively and brave, but cruel and treacherous, and are great ship builders.

Before the Mongols, under Genghis Khan, broke into China, in the thirteenth century, Annam formed part of the Chinese Empire, and still renders nominal homage to it, though the emperor has no real power in the country. The people, who are either Buddhists or followers of Confucius, are governed by a king, assisted by mandarins (official nobles). There is a viceroy for Tonquin, and one for the possessions on the borders of Cambodia; while each province has a military governor, and every man is liable to be called out for military service.

The French have recently acquired great influence in Tonquin, over which they are gradually establishing a "protectorate." They have also prevailed on the Annamese to throw open several of their ports.

### 3. Climate.

The climate is subject to extremes of heat and cold, and typhoons frequently rage over the country. The rainfall is moderate for the tropics.

### 4. Towns.

*Kesho* (100,000), on the Song-ka, above the delta, has some trade; and *Hai-phong*, lower down, is one of the open "treaty" ports. The chief town of Annam is *Hue* (100,000), on the coast of Cochin China, and the river Hue. It is strongly fortified. Since 1874 the whole country has been practically dependent on France.

### CAMBODIA.

South-west of Annam, and east of the Gulf of Siam, is the kingdom of *Cambodia*, which formerly ruled over a large extent of country in the peninsula, and then did homage to Siam. It has recently (1864) placed itself under the protection of France, which obtained a footing in Annam at the end of the last century.

Cambodia is a small state, 240 miles long by 180 broad, with a rich alluvial rice-growing plain, down the Mekhong valley; while on the west, towards Lake Toulé Sap, are tablelands and mountains, all thickly wooded; and here are many remains of temples and palaces, which have still to be explored. The country has a nominal king, and is divided into departments and districts, governed by a large number of officials.

**People.**

The *Khmers*, or people of Cambodia, are supposed by some to belong to the great family of Caucasian races, and to have settled originally round the great lake. It is curious to observe that the types of countenance in the Buddhist fragments are quite different from those of the Mongol races, and resemble some of the scattered tribes in the peninsula at the present day, and also the Hindus. The language of the tribes of Cambodia and Siam contains words of many syllables, unlike that of the Mongol races, which is monosyllabic.

The population is probably under 1,000,000.

*Udong* (12,000), in the centre, is the capital; but *Panom Peng*, lower down the Mekhong, is the market for Chinese traffic.

**LOWER COCHIN CHINA.**

*Lower Cochin China*, an alluvial plain, containing the delta of Mekhong and a network of streams, formed part of the kingdom of Cambodia, till it was ceded to the French in 1867. Its surface is marshy and fertile, and its climate hot, wet, and extremely unhealthy. The regions immediately adjoining the sea are covered with mangrove trees, to which succeeds a swampy plain, bearing rice, cotton, indigo, tobacco, and sugar-canes. Further north, however, where the ground is higher, there are thick forests of teak, gum, and other trees, which shelter countless insects.

**People.**

The inhabitants are very mixed. The bulk of the population are *Annamese*; but there are many Malays,

Chinese, Cambodians, and French. The country is divided into six provinces, at the head of which is the French Minister of Marine.

*Saigon* (50,000) is the chief town, on a river, and easily reached from the sea. Cotton, sugar, gums, betel leaves, tobacco, silk, and pepper are imported from the adjacent island of Pulo Condor, south-west of the Mek-hong delta. The peninsula ends in Cape Cambodia.

The population is 1,600,000.

### CHAPTER XIII.

#### THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO.

We now come to one of the most interesting regions, botanically, in the whole earth—the Malay Archipelago, which stretches in a curve from the Nicobar group eastwards as far as the Solomon Isles. The islands all lie within the tropics, and many of them are under the equator. The seas are warm, the climate hot and moist, and the vegetation tropical. Even here, however, there are marked differences of climate; for in the centre, round the island of Celebes, a deep sea separates two shallow seas. East of this the people are Papuans, and the fauna resembling that of Australia. West of it the people are Malay, and the fauna Asiatic. There are also traces of a third race inhabiting the islands, resembling negroes. Many of the islands are volcanic, and many are the work of coral insects.

The principal animals of the *Indo-Malay*, or west group, are tigers, leopards, rhinoceroses, otters, monkeys, squirrels, bats. The birds, which are very brilliant in colour, are like the Indian birds; but Java has some

which are peculiar to itself, including peacocks, while it is without the almost universal pheasant.

The whole of the inhabitants of the Malay Archipelago are Mahommedans, except those of *Bali* and *Lombok*, who are Buddhists. A large number of the islands belong to the Dutch.

#### SUMATRA.

The island of *Sumatra* is only separated from the mainland by the Straits of Malacca. It is 1,000 miles long, and has a range of mountains from 10,000 to 12,000 feet high running down the west of the island. These mountains are mostly granite, though there are several volcanoes scattered about. The rivers of course flow eastwards through a rich plain covered with trees, and planted with cocoa-nuts, sago palms, tobacco, sugar-canes, pepper, maize, fruits, rice, and camphor. From the mountains gold, copper, tin, and sulphur are obtained. The southern, and much of the western half of the island, is *Dutch*, and (with some small adjacent islands) is divided into five provinces. The remainder is independent, and inhabited by *Malays*, and some other tribes. *Acheen*, the chief town, is on the north. The population is 2,000,000.

The *Riou* islands, off the east coast of Sumatra, the *Natuna* group, east of Malacca, and some small islands west of Borneo (chief of which are *Banca* and *Billiton*, famous for their tin mines), are also Dutch, and are under the control of a governor called a Resident. They export timber and spirits.

#### JAVA.

South-east of Sumatra and the Sunda Strait is *Java*, a fertile volcanic island 600 miles long, containing

forty-five volcanoes, the highest of which, Mount Semeroe, reaches 12,000 feet. The soil is very rich, and the climate hot and damp. Spices, indigo, tea, coffee, tobacco, and rice are everywhere cultivated, and the forests that cover the island yield valuable trees. Java has the remains of many temples, apparently those of the Brahmins, or learned and priestly caste of India, and cities which are now the home of tigers and rhinoceroses. The Javanese, who number fourteen millions and a half, live peaceably with the Dutch, and hold subordinate positions under the Dutch rulers. *Batavia* (135,000), on the north coast, facing the Java Sea, is the capital of all the Dutch possessions, and there are many other large towns. *Bantam*, to the west, famous for its breed of small fowls, was the place where the Dutch first landed in 1602. A railway runs through Java, and there is a telegraph from Batavia to Singapore.

#### SMALLER ISLANDS OF THE SUNDA SEA.

East of Java stretches a chain of mountainous volcanic islands also belonging to the Dutch, of which the principal are *Bali*, *Lombok*, *Sumbawa*, *Floris*, and *Sandalwood Island*, yielding teak, tamarinds, sago, and rice. To the east of these is *Timor*, half Dutch and half Portuguese, less fertile than the rest, with mountains 7,000 feet high, and celebrated for its swarms of bees. Timor is inhabited chiefly by the black woolly-haired Papuans.

North of Timor is the Banda Sea, studded with islands, many of them volcanic, and containing the group of the *Moluccas* or Spice Islands. These include the *Arus Islands*, where the Bird of Paradise is

found, between Timor and the great island of Papua, or New Guinea, which we shall consider presently. The greater number of the Molucca islands are volcanic, and subject to earthquakes. This soil is rich, yielding nutmegs, cloves, spices, and wonderful fruits. Others are, however, the work of coral insects, and are to be distinguished by a ring of rock round their shores. They are flat and very low, never lying more than ten or twelve feet above the waves. Vegetation soon springs up, though it is noticeable that the plants are seldom of a useful kind. The principal islands besides the Arus are the *Kei* group—the *Aram* islands, where the cassowary is found; *Amboyna*, containing in its rivers and seas 780 varieties of fish; and *Gilolo*, which is in the Moluccas proper. They are divided by the Dutch into three Residencies. The population of the Moluccas is mixed, and we begin to find traces of the Papuan race.

#### CELEBES.

The island of Celebes, which consists of four sharply-cut promontories, lies in the deep sea that divides the two shallow ones. It is remarkable for its wonderful butterflies and tree ferns, and contains some birds and beasts peculiar to itself. Mud volcanoes and springs are scattered over the island, and to the north there are high limestone mountains. Its surface is less covered with forests than most of these islands, and the grassy plains afford excellent pasture for buffaloes, horses, and wild pigs. Gold, tin, copper, coal, and iron are found in the south; but the chief articles of export are coffee, rice, birds' nests, cotton, and tortoise-shell, which it sends to China and Singapore. It is

divided by the Dutch into two Residencies. *Macassar*, famous for its oil, is in the south of the island. In the interior of Celebes are the *Turayas*, who appear to resemble the *Dyaks* of Borneo; and the *Buges*, brighter in colour, live on the coast.

## BORNEO.

*Borneo*, the third largest island in the world, is 800 miles long and 600 broad. It is tolerably compact in shape, and has a mountain range running down the west of the island, with a peak 13,600 feet high, and another chain which curves round to the south-east. These mountains are limestone, and there is not a trace of volcanic agency in the whole island. The forests are composed of the ever-useful bamboo, guttapercha-tree, teak, and iron-wood. Orchids are abundant, and the natives are especially fond of a fruit called *durian*, which grows in abundance. Sugar-canes, tapioca, and vegetables are common, and there are rice-fields along the rivers, and gold, and even diamonds, are found in the south. Pheasants, beetles, flying-frogs, and ourang-outangs are to be met with all over the island. The island is peopled by *Dyaks*, of Malay race, but taller than the generality of Malays, and lively though homicidal. The larger part of Borneo is Dutch, but in the north are two native kingdoms, which are independent—that of *Bruni*, on the north-west, and *Sarawak*, further south. Sarawak was governed and civilized by Sir James Brooke, who was made a rajah in 1841. The British have lately obtained a foothold in North Borneo.

## THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

The Philippine Islands, which lie exactly between Celebes and Formosa, were discovered by the explorer Magellan, and named after Philip II. of Spain. They are mostly volcanic, with beautiful scenery, and magnificent forests of cedar, ebony, and iron-wood. Tobacco, hemp, sugar, coffee, rice, and cocoa are grown in the plains, and exported from *Manilla* (15,000), a sea-port town on the west of Luzon, the largest of the group. *Manilla*, which is celebrated for cigars, is constantly being destroyed by earthquakes. Luzon has an active volcano called *Albay*, 8,500 feet high. The year may be divided into three parts. 1. The cold season, from November to March, which is the period of the north-east monsoon. 2. The hot season, from March to May. 3. The wet season, from June to October, the period of the south-west monsoon. The population (6,300,000) is mixed, and consists of the aboriginal *Negritos*, a small, dark, woolly-haired people, who live in the interior; of the Malays of the coast, who are Mahommedans, Christians, and Pagans; and of the Spaniards and Chinese of the towns. The Philippines are divided into provinces, under Spanish military governors.

To the north are the *Bashee* islands, which are likewise Spanish.

## MICRONESIA.

Various groups of islands are classed under this name. The most northerly are the *Bonin* and *Volcano* isles (N. lat. 24°, 140° E. long.). Southwards are the *Ladrone* or *Marianne* islands (15° N. lat. 146° E. long.),

which were discovered by Magellan, and belong to Spain. They are volcanic, and the rich soil yields cotton, indigo, rice, and sugar. The population is Spanish.

South of the Ladrões are the *Caroline Islands* (5° N. lat.), extending over about 18° of longitude. The climate is good, and bread-fruits, arrowroot, sugar, and cotton, are among the productions. The seas also swarm with fish. The Carolines belong to Spain. North-east of the Carolines, in lat. 10° long. 170°, is the *Marshall Archipelago*, a low coral group, with luxuriant vegetation, and cocoa-nut palms, bananas, sago, and rice. Further south are the unimportant *Gilbert Islands*.

All these Oceanic islands, including also those of Melanesia, which we are about to consider, have certain features in common. They have a hot, damp climate, where the Pacific winds both bring rain and modify the heat, so that vegetation reaches a high degree of luxuriance. Bread-fruits, yams, and other roots, bananas, arrow-root, cocoa-nut, and sago palms are almost universal. Roughly speaking, the bread-fruit may be said to be the characteristic tree among those islands south of the equator; while the cocoanut palm is the characteristic of those above it.

#### MELANESIA.

*Melanesia* contains the great island of *Papua*, or *New Guinea*, which is divided from Australia by the Torres Strait, and is inhabited by animals similar to those of Australia. The birds are numerous and brilliant in plumage. Little is known about Papua, except

that it has a mountain chain 18,000 feet high, and thick forests of camphor, sago palms, and cocoa-nuts, besides fields of rice, sugar-canes, and spice plantations. Half the island is independent, and half is Dutch. The Papuans, who are estimated at 500,000, resemble the natives of Australia. The British have recently spoken of annexing New Guinea.

East of Papua are the small *Admiralty* group (3° S. lat., 145° 10' E. long.), peopled by Malays, and producing the usual fruits; *New Ireland* (4° 2' S. lat., 153° E. long.), forest covered and fertile; *New Britain* (6° S. lat., 150° E. long.), mountainous and rich, yielding bread-fruit, yams, ginger, and cocoanuts; the *Solomon Isles* (8° S. lat., 158° E. long.), a large and wooded group, peopled by both Papuans and Malays; the *Santa Cruz* islands (10° 30' S. lat., 166° 30' E. long.), sometimes included in the *Queen Charlotte* islands, to the south (11° S. lat., 166° E. long.), which are volcanic and fertile. South of these are the *New Hebrides* (16° 20' S. lat., 169° E. long.), with spices, cotton, sugar, palms, and fruits of various kinds growing on their tropical soil, and cultivated by the Papuan inhabitants. Directly south of the New Hebrides are the *Loyalty Isles* (French, 21° S. lat., 166° E. long.), with *New Caledonia* (21° 30', 165° 30') on the south, less fertile than most of the islands, and used by the French as a penal settlement. The *Coral Sea* Islands bounds the New Hebrides and Loyalty Islands on the west, and on the east are the *Fiji* Islands, a British possession, which we have already considered (vol. i.).

## POLYNESIA.

The third division of the Pacific islands is called *Polynesia*, and includes the *Samoa* or *Navigators' Islands* ( $13^{\circ} 45'$  S. lat.,  $171^{\circ}$  W. long., as we now reckon westwards from Greenwich); the *Tonga* or *Friendly Islands* ( $20^{\circ}$  S. lat.,  $175^{\circ}$  W. long.); *Kermadec Islands* ( $30^{\circ} 30'$  S. lat.,  $178^{\circ} 48'$  W. long.); *Hervey* or *Cook's Islands* ( $10^{\circ} 40'$  S. lat.,  $142^{\circ}$  W. long.); the *Austral Islands* ( $23^{\circ}$  S. lat.,  $147^{\circ}$  W. long.); the *Gambier Islands* ( $23^{\circ} 1'$  S. lat.,  $137^{\circ}$  W.), which belong to the French. To the south-east is *Pitcairn Island* ( $25^{\circ} 3'$  S. lat.,  $130^{\circ} 8'$  W. long.), where the descendants of several shipwrecked people have lived for many years; while in S. lat.  $26^{\circ} 6'$ , W. long.  $109^{\circ} 17'$ , is *Easter Island*, which is further away from a continent than any other island on the globe. The island is full of huge mysterious statues of stone. The *Low Archipelago* ( $17^{\circ}$  S. lat.,  $143^{\circ}$  W. long.) lies north-west of the Gambier group, and west of these again are the *Society Islands* ( $19^{\circ}$  S. lat.,  $150^{\circ}$  W. long.), a French possession, with high volcanic mountains and a fertile soil. *Tahiti*, the chief of the islands, is full of picturesque scenery, and is inhabited by gentle, friendly people. The *Marquesas Islands* ( $9^{\circ}$  S. lat.,  $140^{\circ}$  W. long.), on the north, also belong to the French. On the west are some scattered islands belonging to the United States; and just south of the Tropic of Cancer, in N. lat.  $20^{\circ}$ , W. long.  $157^{\circ}$ , are the *Sandwich Islands*, more civilized than any of the rest, and with a considerable trade in wheat, arrowroot, silk, coffee, sandal-wood, cocoa, and cotton. The candle-nut tree is native to these islands, which are not, however

as fertile as most of the rest, except where they are artificially watered. *Hawaii*, the largest, has a volcano, called *Mauna Loa*, 13,700 feet high; and another called *Kilanea*, with a crater filled with a lake of fire. The people, of Malay race, elect their own king, whose capital is at *Honolulu*, on *Oahu*, perhaps the driest of all the islands by nature, but when watered producing beautiful trees and splendid creepers.

## AFRICA



# AFRICA

## CHAPTER I.

### **Physical Features.**

ON looking at the map of the Continent of Africa, we shall see that it is a solid mass, with an almost unbroken coast line, and comparatively few rivers. The mountains mostly follow the coast, though at a little distance from it; but on the east high ranges break further inland, and between them lie some of the largest lakes in the world. The rest of the country is a high table-land, except where a narrow strip of low, marshy ground borders the shore.

The Straits of Gibraltar separate Africa from Spain, and the Isthmus of Suez joins it to Asia, and divides the Mediterranean, on the north, from the Red Sea, on the east. A canal has within late years been cut through the Isthmus of Suez, thus shortening the journey to India and Australia. The Indian Ocean lies on the east, and the Atlantic on the west.

On the north-west run the Atlas Mountains and their spurs. South of these, from the Atlantic to Egypt and the Nile, is the high, rainless, sandstone plateau of the Sahara, where fossils and shell-fish still remain to show us that the desert was once a sea. The Sahara is bounded on the south by a broad, forest-

covered belt, called the Soudan, watered by the Senegal, the Niger, the Shari (flowing into Lake Tchad), and the Middle Nile. This is the real home of the negro races, and is the beginning of the pastoral and agricultural country that extends far south. Beyond the Nile is the mountain country of Abyssinia, bordering the Red Sea; while between the Soudan, the Upper Nile, and the Congo river is another high and little-known tableland. The Nile rises south of Lake Victoria Nyanza, and takes a northerly course through Egypt into the Mediterranean. As we have said, the region about its source is very mountainous, Kilimanjaro reaching 18,700 feet; and among the ranges are embedded Albert Nyanza, Tanganyika, and Nyassa Lakes, and many more. Along the east coast, from Delagoa Bay to Cape Guardafui, is a strip of low ground, similar to that which runs all along the west. The chief river on this coast is the Zambesi, which falls into the Mozambique Channel, opposite the great island of Madagascar. In the south are the mountain ranges of the British territories, that are bounded on the north by the Orange river.

Having given this general outline of the continent, we will now proceed to examine it more in detail.

## CHAPTER II.

### NORTH AFRICA.

#### MOROCCO.

THE angle between Cape Bona and the Canary Isles is occupied by the states of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunis. Here in Morocco lie the highest peaks of the Atlas chain, which reach about 12,000 feet. On the north

side of the range, where winds from the Mediterranean and Atlantic bring rain for five months in the year, fruit-trees, barley, and millet grow in abundance; while on the south, which is exposed to the hot winds of the Sahara, only date palms and aloes flourish.

### 1. People and History.

The people, who number about 6,140,000, are divided into the *Berbers*, or descendants of the ancient inhabitants, and the *Arabs*, who drove the Berbers into the mountains in the first years of the eighth century. The Berbers afterwards adopted the religion of their conquerors, but preserved their own language, which is one spoken over most of the Sahara. Morocco, the Mauritania of the Romans, was made a kingdom at the end of the fifteenth century, and in the course of the next 150 years extended its power over much of the surrounding country. About the middle of the seventeenth century it was subdued by the sherif of Tafilet, a town beyond the Atlas, and since then has been declining in power. It is now divided into governments, and ruled by a Sultan or Emperor, who holds his court at Fez, Mesquinez, or Morocco.

### 2. Towns.

On the promontory jutting out into the Straits of Gibraltar are Cape Spartel and the towns of *Tangier* (20,000) and *Ceuta*. Further south, on the river Sebu, is *Fez* (80,000), built among the aloë-covered mountains, with a large trade in red caps and leather goods, which it exchanges for the gold dust, ivory, and ostrich feathers of the interior, so much valued in Europe. *Mesquinez* (60,000), south-west of Fez, is built in a

beautiful situation, and *Morocco* (50,000), far to the south, is on a plain bordered by the Atlas.

There are quantities of Jews throughout Morocco.

#### ALGERIA.

To the east of Morocco lies *Algeria*, the two countries resembling each other in many ways. In Algeria, however, the mountains are lower, and the soil more fertile. In the north is a belt of well-watered, cultivated land, and this is backed by the mountains, which are covered with oaks and cedar-trees. Then comes a tableland sprinkled over with lakes, and bounded on the south by another range, and beyond these mountains lies the Sahara.

##### 1. Productions.

Cotton, wheat, vines, tobacco, figs, oranges, oleanders, citrons, myrtles, and vegetables are grown in the richer soil by the coast; while the higher ground is covered with esparto grass, which is exported to England to be used in the manufacture of paper. There is no coal in Algeria, but west of Bona (on the coast) are large iron mines, and lead, antimony, zinc, and copper are found elsewhere.

##### 2. People and History.

Algeria, part of the ancient Numidia, is inhabited by 3,310,000 people, of whom 25,000 are Europeans, and the rest *Berbers* (or Kabyles) and *Arabs*. The Berbers dwell on the higher ground, and cultivate it, and there is a standing feud between them and the Arabs, who are settled in the cities, and also with the Bedouin Arabs, who wander about. The country, formerly known as *Numidia*, had princes of its own till it was subjugated by the Romans. It was governed by Arab

princes from the beginning of the eighth till the middle of the twelfth century, when the kingdom fell to pieces, and was ruled by a religious sect. When the Spanish Moors were driven out of the country, they returned to Algeria, and many of them became pirates, till a new despotism was founded, early in the sixteenth century, by the pirate Barbarossa, which lasted till Algeria was subdued by the French in 1830.

Algeria is divided into three departments—those of Oran, Algiers, and Constantine. The seat of government is at Algiers.

### 3. Towns.

The principal towns are *Oran* (40,000), on the coast on the west, which has a fine harbour; *Algiers* (50,000), the capital, on a bay, whose climate is suited to consumptive people; *Bona*, on the Gulf of Bona, towards Tunis, with great iron mines in the neighbourhood; and *Constantine* (34,000), in the interior, which gets its name from the Emperor Constantine, who rebuilt it in 313 A.D. The French have much improved the climate of the interior by draining some of the marshes, and have fertilized the desert by boring wells.

### TUNIS.

*Tunis* has a broken coast-line, and stretches southwards towards Tripoli. It resembles Algiers in most respects, both in its surface and productions. The inhabitants (numbering 2,100,000) are composed of Berbers, Negroes, Jews, Arabs, and a mixed race called Kulugli. Tunis, which has quite recently been taken under French "protection," was formerly divided into eighteen provinces, and governed by a Bey, who was nominally dependent on Turkey.

### 1. Productions.

The chief productions are olives, dates (on the edge of the desert), pears, and other fruits. Cattle are bred on the hillsides, which are bare and treeless from the hot winds blowing from the interior. The people in the towns manufacture silk, burnouses (a long kind of thin cloak), the red cap called fez, leather, and pottery. The people on the coast collect coral and sponges, and fish for tunny. The chief trade is with the Levant (the east of the Mediterranean) and with Marseilles.

### 2. Towns.

The chief town is *Tunis* (150,000), on the Gulf of Tunis, which ends on the east in Cape Bona. *Carthage*, the old republic, queen of the Mediterranean, and rival of Rome, founded by Dido, and destroyed by Scipio Africanus, B.C. 148, lay thirteen miles to the north-east of Tunis. *Sfax*, to the south, on the Gulf of Cades, has an export trade in esparto grass, jessamine and rose scent, and sponges.

### TRIPOLI.

The Turkish province of *Tripoli*, once subject to Carthage, is a strip of low, flat land, about 100 miles wide, ending to the east in the high promontory of Barca, and in the south in mountains and the fertile oasis (as these spots are called in the desert) of Fezzan. In the oasis, and in the well-watered valleys of Barca, tobacco, grain, saffron, cotton, and fruits are cultivated; but the rest of the country is bare, hot, and sandy. The limestone promontory of Barca, or Cyrenaica, was in former times the site of "a hundred cities," and now contains *Benghazi* (5,000), the ancient Berenice, the second port of Tripoli. *Tripoli* (18,000), the capital,

is on the Gulf of Tripoli, and trades in ostrich feathers, wheat, and the usual esparto grass.

The inhabitants are estimated at 1,000,000, and are chiefly Berbers and Arabs.

To sum up, the principal productions of North Africa are wheat, cotton, tobacco, citrons, oranges, almonds, figs, vines, olives, dates, and esparto grass. Lions, jackals, panthers, hyænas, antelopes, gazelles, cranes, camels, and oxen are to be met with on the edge of the desert, together with some of the European birds of passage, such as storks and swallows.

#### SAHARA.

The vast country stretching from the Senegal to the Nile, which is known as the Desert of Sahara, was once a great sea. It is a high sandstone tableland, sometimes sandy, sometimes pebbly, broken by occasional mountain ranges of volcanic, granite, limestone, or sandstone rocks. The rainlessness of the climate is caused by the fact that east winds blow almost entirely, and have already expended all their moisture. The heat in the day is frightful, owing to the radiation (or giving back) of the sun's rays from the rock and sand; while at night the temperature sometimes sinks to freezing point, from the dryness of the air. Sandstorms are frequent in the Sahara. Oases are sometimes to be met with, fertile spots sheltered by palms, and watered by underground springs or streams in the hollows. A great barrier of sandhills on the north divides the Barbary States (as the states we have been considering are sometimes called) from the desert. There are many salt lakes in the Sahara, and many dried lake basins; but the streams are only "intermittent;" that

is, only flow for part of the year. The east part of the Sahara is known as the "Libyan Desert," containing the wonderfully fertile oasis of Siwah, or "Jupiter Ammon." In this oasis olives, palms, oranges, figs, wheat, and acacias grow abundantly.

The inhabitants of the Sahara are few, and are divided into *Arabs* and *Berbers* on the west; a Berber race called *Tuareg* in the centre; and the *Tibbus*, who are probably akin to the negroes, on the east. The countries occupied by these various races are sometimes a confederation of republics, and sometimes small states, ruled by a king or sultan. The people are engaged in passing on the ivory, gold dust, and ostrich feathers of the south to the Mediterranean states, in exchange for the cotton and steel goods of Europe. Animal life is scarce, gazelles, ostriches, antelopes, hares, a heavy kind of sheep, and camels, constituting the principal varieties.

There is a project of cutting a canal from the Atlantic to the Sahara, but this will probably never be realized, nor be of much use if accomplished.

#### SOUDAN.

South of the Sahara, from the Atlantic to the Nile, stretches a chain of states, inhabited by the negro races, and watered by several large rivers, of which the chief are the Senegal, the Gambia, the Niger, and the Shari. The tropical rains (lasting from July to October) fertilize the soil, and the vegetation is luxuriant and beautiful. Indigo, tobacco, sugar, rice, coffee, wheat, pepper, and india-rubber trees grow in the west, where the coast is flat and marshy. From Cape Blanco to the river Gambia runs a chain of French settlements; while Portuguese and British have planted themselves more to the south.

The inhabitants are either a red-skinned Mahomedan race, called *Fellahtahs*, who occupy most of the region of the centre and the east of Lake Tchad, or pagan negroes, some of whom are cannibals, while others have bloody religious ceremonies, like the natives of the kingdom of Dahomey on the coast.

The hippopotamus, rhinoceros, elephant, ostrich, and horse are all found in the Soudan.

We have not space to give a minute account of the different Soudan states; but it may be as well to say that along the low, flat coast south of the Kong range, between the mouth of the Niger and Sierra Leone, are the independent republic of *Liberia*, inhabited for the last sixty years by freed slaves; the kingdom of *Ashantee* (north of the British possessions), with *Coomassie* for its capital; the kingdom of *Dahomey*, inhabited by the Fantees, and bounded on the west by the river Volta. This is the "Slave Coast," whence numbers of slaves are exported. Eastwards, between Dahomey and the Niger, is the territory of the *Yombas*. The British have lately annexed some fresh territory in the direction of Liberia, and the French some territory between Liberia and the Gold Coast.

#### Basin of the Niger.

The river Niger (or Quorra), which drains the greater number of the Soudan states, rises on the north side of the Kong range. It waters a large extent of territory taken under French "protection" in 1881, and the rich and comparatively well-organized states of *Bambarra* and *Masina*, with the trading capital of *Timbuctoo* (13,000), near a bend of the river. The Niger then takes a wide curve, and turning

south washes the country of the *Sourhays* and the *Gando* state, after which it receives on its left bank the great river Binne. In this region are forests of palms and butter-trees, and fields of indigo. The town of *Abo*, at the head of the delta, exports palm oil, and below this the ground is marshy, and slaves are the chief article of trade. The Bay, south-east of the mouth of the Niger, is called the Bight of Biafra, containing numerous islands, three of which belong to Portugal, and one, *Fernando Po*, is a place of political exile for Spain. On the shore the wooded volcanic range of the Cameroon Mountains reaches up to 13,000 feet.

East of the Niger basin lie the states of *Sokoto*, *Bornu*, *Baghirmi*, and *Wadai*, grouped round Lake Tchad. Except Baghirmi they are all Mahomedan, and are fairly well governed by their own Sultans. Tchad is a large, round, shallow, fresh-water lake, nearly in the centre of the continent, about 1,500 feet above the sea level. Its shores are overgrown in the dry season by reeds and the papyrus (used by the Egyptians instead of paper), and shelter droves of hippopotami, and swarms of crocodiles. Besides these, elephants, lions, leopards, antelopes, and rhinoceroses are very numerous in the various Soudan states. The river Shari, which is believed to rise west of Lake Albert Nyanza, flows into Lake Tchad on the south, and drains a large extent of country still inhabited by pagan tribes. Chief among these are the Bandas, and the people of Baghirmi.

Except in *Wadai*, where the soil is poor, the country is fertile, and produces bananas, peppers, tamarinds, oil-palms, tobacco, and millet. The horses of Bornu are famous throughout Africa. *Darfur*, or the Egyptian

Soudan, was conquered by Egypt in 1874. It contains about 4,000,000 people, of whom a large proportion are Arabs.

The annual rainfall round Lake Tchad is not less than sixty inches.

The population of the Central Soudan is 31,800,000.

#### EGYPT.

##### The Basin of the Nile.

The Egyptian dominions are bounded on the north by the Mediterranean, on the west by the Sahara, the Soudan, and Central Africa, and stretch on the east along the coast of the Red Sea as far as Cape Guardafui. Roughly speaking, they may be said to coincide with the Nile basin.

The main source is supposed to be the river Shimeeyu, which falls into Lake Victoria Nyanza on the south, and emerges from its north shores. The Nile soon enters Egyptian territory, and passes through the head of Albert Nyanza, after which it flows straight north, and, entering a plateau lower than that in which the lakes are situated, receives numerous tributaries between 2° and 10° north lat. It then divides the conquered states of *Kordofan* and *Darfur* from the cultivated plain of *Senaar*, bounded on the east by Abyssinia. The tributary of the Blue Nile passes through the centre of *Senaar*, waters the town of *Senaar*, and falls into the Nile at *Khartoum* (40,000), which exchanges the produce of the south for the goods of Europe. For some distance the Nile continues its course till it reaches the bare and rocky Nubian desert, when it bends for a while to the south, and begins to descend

to the lower ground in those cataracts which are characteristic of its whole course. East of Nubia a chain of granite and porphyry hills lies along the Red Sea, and these were quarried by the ancient Egyptians for their great buildings. Below the cataracts the river fertilizes by its inundations a strip of land on each side of its banks, sweeps by the ruins of *Luxor*, *Karnac*, *Denderah*, and hundred-gated *Thebes*, till it reaches *Memphis*, where the traveller sees the pyramids rising out of the desert. Further north still is *Fayoum*, and to the east of Fayoum is Lake Moeria. *Cairo* (350,000), the seat of government, at the head of the delta, is a fine city with 400 mosques. On the low ground bordering the Mediterranean is *Alexandria* (212,000), built by Alexander the Great, who erected a splendid pharos, or lighthouse, for the use of ships. For several hundred years Alexandria was at the head of the Mediterranean commerce, and finally owed its decay to the quarrels of its inhabitants. Saint Athanasius, after whom the Creed is named, was a deacon here. East of Alexandria are *Rosetta* (15,000), *Damietta* (37,000), and *Port Said* (10,000). The canal is cut across the Isthmus from Port Said to *Suez* (14,000), and lying in a straight line between the canal and Cairo is Tel-el-Kebir. Between the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Akhabah is the limestone peninsula of Sinai, with peaks, over 8,000 feet high, of volcanic and granite rocks. It was in early Christian times the resort of hermits, and later was covered with convents.

#### 1. Climate.

In that part of the Egyptian territory which lies near the equator the rains are very heavy and the

vegetation rich. Further north, in the sandy deserts which compose the greater part of Egypt, the country is almost entirely rainless, and all the moisture is derived from the night dews. On the Mediterranean coast there is a small amount of rain in the year, but the country generally is very hot.

## 2. Productions.

In the lowlands of the delta, rice, wheat, cotton, sugar, and indigo are cultivated; in the rich oases round Lake Mœris are apricots, figs, olives, and roses, from which a scent called "attar of roses" is made, and the lotus lily grows all along the Nile. In the high park-like country above Nubia, cattle, sheep, goats, and asses are bred, and herds of giraffes and elephants roam about, the latter yielding ivory. The ibis, the sacred bird of the Egyptians, and the flamingo, live on the banks of the Nile. In Upper Egypt are palms of various kinds, and millet is the principal grain. As far as the periodical inundations of the Nile can reach the soil is rich, and largely repays cultivation. It is for this reason that the towns were all built along the river banks.

## 3. People.

The population of Egypt is principally *Arab*. In North, or Lower Egypt, where the Arab blood is mixed with that of the old Egyptians, the people lead a settled life; but in the south and about Nubia the Arabs are nomads. In a few places the ancient Egyptians (*Copts*) have kept themselves pure; but in the extreme south the people are either negroes, or a mixed race of negroes and Arabs. The population of Egypt

proper is estimated at 5,583,000, and that of the whole Egyptian dominion at 16,400,000.

#### 4. History.

The beginnings of Egyptian history are lost in darkness, but we know the country was very early civilized. Memphis, the seat of the earliest dynasties, is supposed to have been built by one Menes; and in the desert near by are the Pyramids and the great statue called the Sphinx, which is a woman buried up to the breast, and, like the Pyramids, was the work of the kings of the fourth dynasty. Memphis remained the capital of Egypt till the eleventh dynasty, when it gave place to Thebes, in Upper Egypt. During the reigns of the kings of the twelfth dynasty most of the great engineering works of the Egyptians were executed: Lake Moeris was excavated (about B.C. 2,000), the Labyrinth built, and works for measuring and regulating the inundations of the Nile were undertaken. Soon after this we find that some foreigners had come into Egypt, known as the "Hyksos" or "Shepherd Kings," and probably of Semitic origin. The Hyksos remained in the country for 400 years, and it was most likely under them that Joseph came into power. They were expelled by the native kings of the eighteenth dynasty, who extended Egyptian rule as far as Nineveh and the Euphrates, and encouraged arts and sciences. The greatness of Egypt reached its height under Rameses II. (the nineteenth dynasty), and it was under his son, Mneptah, that the exodus of the Israelites probably took place. During the next 500 years the country was divided among small princes. It was next conquered by the Ethiopians, from the south; then by the

Assyrians, in the seventh century ; and after a short restoration came the invasion of Cambyzes, son of Cyrus, B.C. 529. For 200 years the history of Egypt is a continued series of rebellions and reorganizations, and dynasties established themselves in Bubastis, Sais, and Tanis, towns of the Delta. This state of things was put an end to by the conquest of Alexander, and the reigns of his successors, the Ptolemies ; and after the death of the last of the race, Cleopatra, Egypt passed under the dominion of Rome, B.C. 30. The early centuries of our era were given up to ecclesiastical struggles ; the deserts were the favourite resting-places of hermits, and party feeling ran high in Alexandria. Egypt fell a prey to the Arabs in A.D. 639, and was made the seat of the Fatimite branch of the Caliphs about 973. In the twelfth century the Sultan of Damascus was called in to help in some quarrel, and the result of this move was to place the country in the hands of his nephew, Saladin. In 1255 the Mamelukes, or Turkish slaves, seized upon the throne, which they held till the conquest of the Sultan, Selim I., in 1517. Pashas or governors were appointed till the beginning of the present century, when Mehemet Ali was given more extensive powers in consequence of his successes against the Porte, and raised to the rank of viceroy. The title remained in the family, and in 1866 the viceroy was made khedive or king ; and in 1873 the only sign of subjection to the Porte was the payment of tribute. The khedive is still the nominal sovereign ; but since the rebellion of Arabi, and his defeat by our forces at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir in 1882, the real power has been in the hands of the English.

## ABYSSINIA.

The kingdom of Abyssinia is surrounded on the north, west, and east by Egyptian territory. It is a high tableland, with the mountains of the east rising to more than 15,000 feet; but the ground falls gradually away towards the west, drained by the Blue Nile, whose source lies in the central lake of Dembea. The rainfall is abundant and the vegetation rich. Tamarinds, vines, citrons, apricots, peaches, and bananas are plentiful. There are fields of cotton, sugar-canes, coffee (native to Abyssinia), and indigo; groves of date-palms, and forests of baobab, sycamore, and ebony; while herds of sheep and oxen are pastured on the mountains. The climate, owing to the elevation of the country, is comparatively cool, considering the latitude. The people—about 3,000,000—are probably descended from the old Ethiopians, a race of whom little is known. The Abyssinians are, however, divided into many different tribes; and two languages, quite unlike each other, are spoken in the country. The religion is a kind of Coptic Christianity, at the head of which is a priest called an “abuna.” Convents are numerous everywhere. The chief town is *Gondar* (6,000), north of Lake Dembea, containing the ruins of the palace of the Ethiopian kings, designed by architects from India. *Magdala* is among the mountains on the east.

Abyssinia is nominally governed by a king, and is divided into provinces, principalities, districts, and villages. Each division has a prince of its own, who is usually at war with the sovereign. *Shoa*, on the south, is independent.

## CHAPTER III.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA.

EAST of Abyssinia, as far as Cape Guardafui, is a high, park-like grazing-ground, inhabited by a tall, dark, handsome race, called *Somali*, who are all Mahommedans. The country affords excellent pasture for camels, ponies, and sheep. Zebras, elephants, ostriches, giraffes, lions, and antelopes are common. Fish are caught on the coast; and gums, frankincense, myrrh, aloes, and other spices are plentiful everywhere.

On the south-east, between the river Juba and the Victoria Nyanza lake, is the country of the *Gallas*, who are partly Mahommedan and partly heathen. Little is known of this region, but, as far as can be ascertained, it resembles the country east and west in its productions and characteristics. The population of Somalis and Gallas is fifteen millions and a half.

## ZANZIBAR.

The well-watered strip of coast reaching from the town of Magadoxo to Cape Delgado belongs to the Sultan of *Zanzibar*, a little island in 6° S. lat. 39° E. long. The people, who are known as the *Suahelis*, are a race of half-caste Arabs, Mahommedans by religion. They are great traders. The coast is low, but the land rises gradually towards the west, where the highest mountains in Africa are situated. The island of *Zanzibar*, thirty miles out to sea, contains about 400,000 people, 60,000 of whom inhabit the town of *Zanzibar*, on the west of the island. The soil is fertile, and

grows millet, rice, sugar-canes, manioc, cloves, and other spices. On the mainland are cocoanut palms and india-rubber trees, the produce of which are exported, together with ivory, coffee, wild-beast skins, and slaves. All this coast is very rainy, as the winds blow either from the north-east or south-east, and over a hundred inches of rain fall in the year.

#### EQUATORIAL LAKES.

We shall include under this name not only the Victoria and Albert Nyanza lakes, which are strictly equatorial, but also those of Tanganyika, Nyassa, and many smaller lakes, which lie farther south, and have become known to us through the discoveries of Burton, Speke, and Livingstone. This country is shut in to the east by the great mass of Kilimanjaro (18,700) and Kenia (18,000); and on the west is watered by various branches of the Lualaba, itself flowing into the Congo. The largest of the lakes is the *Victoria Nyanza*, discovered in 1858 by Captain Speke, more than 4,000 feet above the sea, and giving, as we have said, a passage to the head waters of the Nile. The soil round the lake is very rich, yielding nutmeg, pepper, tamarinds, tobacco, coffee, cotton, fruits, rice, wheat, bananas, and huge baobab trees. Iron is found in large quantities, and there is also gold, silver, cinnabar, and a promontory made entirely of salt. A range of high mountains lies between the Victoria and *Albert Nyanza*, which was first seen by Sir Samuel Baker in 1864, and is said to be 150 miles long; and on the west side another mountain chain forms the watershed for many of the streams flowing into the Congo. The rich vegetation mostly disappears on the south, except in the rainy

season, and baobabs are the principal trees. Oases are, however, to be found, as, for instance, in the Arab town of *Tabora*. Southwards are immense pastures with herds of buffaloes, and these give way in turn to a salt-covered plain, through which flows the Malagaresi.

*Tanganyika* is a long, narrow lake, not more than thirty-five miles broad, with cultivated shores, and a trade with the Zanzibar coast. South-west is another group of smaller lakes, with the large kingdom of *Urua* lying to the west. It was on the shores of the southernmost of these lakes, *Banyweolo*, that the great explorer Livingstone died in 1873. The most easterly of the lakes is *Nyassa*, 350 miles long, surrounded by mountains from 4,000 to 10,000 feet high, with Lake Shirwa to the south-east. The rainfall here amounts to about fifty-three inches. The country between Lake Nyassa and the coast is thickly wooded and fertile, but it has been much depopulated by the slave trade.

The inhabitants of the Equatorial lake regions have been roughly estimated at 47,000,000.

#### Basin of the Zambesi.

The river Zambesi, which has a course of 1,600 miles, rises in the centre of the continent in the high tableland in which Lake Dilolo is situated. It flows directly south, leaving on the left the copper-yielding country of *Katanga*, overrun with buffaloes and zebras. About halfway through its course are the Victoria Falls, discovered by Livingstone, and after this cataract the river turns northwards, and bounds the state of *Matabele*, after which it enters Portuguese territory, and spreads into a delta before falling into the Mozambique Channel.

## PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS ON THE EAST COAST.

The long strip of coast from the river Ruyuma and Cape Delgado to Delagoa Bay (1,400 miles) has belonged to the Portuguese for nearly 400 years. The shore is low, and the rainfall heavy, owing to the prevailing easterly winds, which bring the rain-clouds from the sea, and this, added to the great heat, makes the climate unhealthy. Rice is grown in great quantities along the Zambesi, which overflows its banks, and near the sea; and maize, coffee, cassava, and oranges are to be met with. In the higher grounds are forests, which shelter elephants, while hippopotami live in the rivers. From these animals ivory is obtained. *Tete*, famous for its cinchona bark, is on the right bank of the Zambesi, 260 miles from its mouth. *Sofala* (2,000), to the south, along the coast, has a fine harbour, and formerly exported gold from mines 130 miles to the west. *Mozambique*, on the coast, 300 miles north of the Zambesi delta, is the residence of the governor of the nine provinces, and is a convict settlement. The population amounts to one million.

The country west of the Portuguese territory is in possession of various tribes of the great *Kafir* race, who have established a chain of strong military kingdoms, almost reaching from sea to sea. The *Zulus*, lately conquered by England, are one of the Kafir tribes which owned the coast directly north of Natal. The principal river (after the Zambesi) of the Kafir states is the Limpopo, which bounds the kingdom of *Matabele*, to the south, and flows into the Mozambique Channel through a limestone plain. South and west of Matabele the high country is occupied by the

*Bechuanas*, a branch of the Kafirs, and lies between the Transvaal and the rainless Kalahari Desert. On the south is the Orange river, which rises in the Drakenberg mountains, and receives the Vaal.

The population of these Kafir kingdoms amounts to 16,000,000.

#### ORANGE FREE STATE

is a fertile territory south of the Orange river, with a population of 133,000. It is watered by many streams, and has large plantations of coffee, sugar, tobacco, cotton, maize, vegetables, and hemp. Sheep and cattle graze on the mountain sides. Coal is abundant, and iron, tin, saltpetre, copper, lead, and blacklead are found, and diamonds have lately been discovered. The inhabitants are chiefly *Boers* (Dutch settlers), with some French and Germans. About fifty years ago the Boers became discontented with the rule of England (which had conquered South Africa from the Prince of Orange), and founded this state for themselves, north of Cape Colony. *Blomfontein*, on the Modder, is the chief town, and here the president and council meet for business. It has an English bishop, but the country generally belongs to the Dutch Lutheran Church.

#### Portuguese Territory in West Africa.

The Portuguese West African territories extend from the town of *Ambritz*, on the Loge river, to Cape Frio, and are divided into districts, with governors, who are all subordinate to the Governor-General, residing at *St. Paul de Loanda* (12,000), on the coast, in the province of *Angola*. As in East Africa, the shores are low (though not swampy, as they are north of the Congo),

and rise in terraces towards the interior, till they reach the central plateau, which is comparatively dry, owing to the prevalence of south-east winds over those of the west. The vegetation is scanty, but becomes richer in the interior, where the grass, growing to a height of sixteen feet, is set on fire by the inhabitants. Between the interior and the coast is a belt of volcanic and sandstone rocks, which crumbles, making a red clay soil, on which coffee grows wild. The low alluvial lands are planted with sugar, and the manioc tree is universally useful. The Coanza is the principal river of the country, and south of it is the province of *Benguela*. The population of the Portuguese possessions in West Africa numbers 9,000,000.

#### Basin of the Congo.

The source of the Congo (or Zaire) is in the Lokinga Mountains, and here the river is called the Lualaba. Its course has not been thoroughly explored, but it has been ascertained to flow north through the great *Ulunda* kingdom, receiving many tributaries. Turning south it divides the once large and powerful kingdom of *Congo* from that of *Loango*. The river is full of hippopotami, crocodiles, alligators, and fish, and, like all African rivers, has magnificent falls in its course of 1,400 miles. *Loango* is a heathen state. It is hilly, except on the coast, and exports ivory, palm oil, copper, coffee, cotton, and spices. The inhabitants, who are negroes, are skilful artisans. To the north-east of *Loango* is the native country of the gorilla, which lives in the woods.

The territory of *Biafra* lies between the gorilla country and the Cameroon mountains.

### Islands.

We have already referred to the islands down the West Coast of Africa, all of which are in the possession of European nations. We shall therefore only just mention that they are the *Madeira* group, the *Canary* Islands, the *Cape Verd* Islands, and the islands in the Gulf of Guinea. On the east coast is the great island of

### MADAGASCAR,

separated from the mainland by the deep Mozambique Channel, which measures 300 miles across. Madagascar is 950 miles long and 250 wide, and was discovered in 1506 by a Portuguese viceroy on his way to India. Since that time French and Portuguese have both tried to colonize it, but without success. The inhabitants (about 4,000,000), who are called *Malagusses*, are supposed, from various indications, to be of Asiatic, or Polynesian, extraction, and the language resembles Malay in its structure. The island in the centre is a plateau, 3,000 or 4,000 feet high (principally of basalt), rising, in the craters of extinct volcanoes, as high as 10,000 feet. Round this plateau is a belt of low marshy land, and down the east coast are many lakes. Owing to the difficulty of travelling, this coast is the only part well known to Europeans. The country is well watered, the rivers coming down to the sea in cataracts, and the great heat is modified by the south-east trade wind, which brings rain, and fertilizes the east coast. The rainy season lasts from November to April.

### Productions.

In the thick forests of the interior grow huge palms, teak, rosewood, camphor, mahogany, ebony, and the

traveller's tree, which keeps water in its stalks. Bullocks and poultry are raised, and in the valleys the chief products are rice, cotton, manioc, potatoes, spices, tobacco, bananas, pineapples, citron, sugar, and coffee. Orchids and waterlilies come to great perfection. The principal minerals are salt, coal, silver, copper, and iron. The animals are on a smaller scale than those of Africa, and there is a kind of ape called the aye-aye, which is peculiar to Madagascar.

*Antananarivo*, the capital, is built in the centre, among the granite and basalt mountains. *Tamatave* is a port on the east.

Madagascar is an independent kingdom, and the king was baptized in 1869. A queen now rules it. The French have some settlements in the north of the island, and also in the *Comoro* group on the north-west. East of Madagascar are the *Mascarenhas* group (already noticed), which are British and French, and to the north-east ( $4^{\circ} 15'$  south lat.,  $55^{\circ} 30'$  east long.) the *Seychelles* (British).

*Socotra*, east of Cape Guardafui, is subject to the Sultan of Keshin (Arabia), and contains an Arab population.

AMERICA

7

# AMERICA

## CHAPTER I.

### *NORTH AMERICA.*

#### **1. Physical Features.**

ALTHOUGH the British possessions in North America have already been considered in another place, we must say a few words about the general structure of the continent.

To begin, then, the coast on all sides of North America is jagged and broken into islands, deep bays, and promontories. A great highland extends down the west from the Arctic Ocean to the Isthmus of Panama, and then on through South America as far as Tierra del Fuego ; but with this latter portion we have nothing at present to do. In North America the tableland has an elevation of 800 feet in Alaska, 2,000 feet in the Columbia basin, and 8,000 feet in Mexico ; while above the tableland rise mountain chains, with a southerly direction, whose summits in Mexico are nearly 18,000 feet. The innermost of those ranges within the United States territory is known as the Rocky Mountains, and the outermost as the Coast Range ; while the Sierra Nevada lie between, rising out of a plateau 600 miles west of the Rockies. East of the

Rockies is a high grassy tableland known as the prairies, which gives place to a belt of low ground, stretching (with the exception of a slight rising ground called the Height of Land) from the shores of the Arctic Ocean to the swamps bordering the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic, and Hudson's Bay. Two-thirds of this are intersected by large lakes. West of the low Atlantic belt are the Appalachian Mountains, extending, under different names, as far north as the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Their average elevation is 3,000 feet, but the highest peak is 6,700 feet.

Of course it follows from this structure of the continent that the greater number of rivers are to be found in the central plain. A few, however, drain into the Pacific through gaps in the mountain ranges. The most northerly of the United States rivers is the Yukon, rising on the east of the Cascade Mountains, and flowing through the newly-acquired Alaska territory into Behring Sea. Then, skipping the vast dominion of Canada, and the Frazer flowing into the Pacific opposite Vancouver's Island, we reach the Columbia, which forces its way through a breach in the mountains, and drains a large extent of country before emptying itself into the Pacific.

A straight line drawn from Vancouver's Island to Lake Superior separates the British dominions from those of the United States. Crossing this line the Height of Land forms the watershed for the rivers flowing into the Arctic Ocean, and those flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. To the north are the Mackenzie falling through a series of lakes into the Arctic Ocean, and the Saskatchewan or Nelson, falling into Hudson's Bay. The chain of lakes, the largest in the world

(Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario), end in the St. Lawrence, which shortly becomes entirely British. Small rivers (comparatively) flow down the east coast of the United States. They rise in the Appalachian Mountains and make straight for the Atlantic ; but the great central plain is watered by the Mississippi, whose source is in Minnesota. It receives on its left bank the Ohio, and on its right the Missouri, which rises east of the Rockies, the Arkansas, and the Red River. To the west the Rio Grande rises between two parallel ranges of mountains, and forms for some distance the boundary line between Mexico and the United States.

The United States are bounded on the north by British territory, on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, on the east by the Atlantic, and on the west by the Pacific. The country measures (without Alaska) 1,700 miles from north to south, and 2,800 miles from east to west. It is divided into two Unorganized Territories, the Indian Territory and Alaska ; nine Organized Territories (1, Washington ; 2, Idaho ; 3, Montana ; 4, Dakota ; 5, Wyoming ; 6, Utah ; 7, Arizona ; 8, New Mexico ; 9, District of Columbia) ; and thirty-eight States, which send representatives to Congress : 1, Maine ; 2, New Hampshire ; 3, Vermont ; 4, Massachusetts ; 5, Rhode Island ; 6, Connecticut ; 7, New York ; 8, New Jersey ; 9, Pennsylvania ; 10, Delaware ; 11, Maryland ; 12, Virginia ; 13, West Virginia ; 14, North Carolina ; 15, South Carolina ; 16, Georgia ; 17, Florida ; 18, Alabama ; 19, Mississippi ; 20, Louisiana ; 21, Texas ; 22, Tennessee ; 23, Kentucky ; 24, Ohio ; 25, Indiana ; 26, Illinois ; 27, Michigan ; 28, Wisconsin ; 29, Minnesota ; 30, Iowa ; 31, Missouri ; 32,

Arkansas ; 33, Kansas ; 34, Nebraska ; 35, Colorado ; 36, Oregon ; 37, California ; 38, Nevada.

The population is 50,000,000.

## 2. Climate.

The climate, of course, gets gradually warmer towards the south ; and on the low, damp shores of the Gulf of Mexico the great heat, combined with the moisture, is very unhealthy. The rainfall on the west of the Rocky Mountains is very heavy, as the prevailing westerly winds bring rain-clouds from the Pacific, and the moisture is expended in rain or snow before the clouds can reach the east, which is therefore dry. At the mouth of the Mississippi about fifty-nine inches fall annually, while at New York the quantity is estimated at forty-five inches. The north shores of the Gulf of Mexico are also warmed by the Gulf Stream, which is about eight degrees above the ordinary sea temperature. It sweeps round Florida and the south-east states before crossing the Atlantic to Europe.

## 3. Productions.

The soil of most parts of the United States is very rich, and much of it has never even been under the plough. In the southern states cotton, indigo, sugar, rice, oranges, creepers, and flowering plants with thick, glossy leaves, are abundant, together with vast pine-woods on the swamps of the coast. Further north are maize, corn, oats, wheat, rye, sweet potatoes, and fruits, with tobacco towards the east. In the wide stretch of prairie lands west of the Ohio, to the foot of the Rockies, large numbers of cattle are reared ; and beyond this again, towards Canada, are thick forests of maple,

sycamore, chesnut, walnut, tulip-trees, and others. On the sheltered Pacific coast are vines, oranges, and figs.

#### 4. Minerals.

Coal, iron, zinc, marble, plumbago, lead, granite, salt, and petroleum and sulphur springs, are found in the Appalachian Mountains; gold, silver, salt, copper, quicksilver, coal, in the valleys bordering on the Pacific.

#### 5. Manufactures.

The manufactures are all carried on in the north-east states, and, as it has been considered advisable to "protect" native industry, heavy duties are imposed on foreign goods. Cotton, beef, grains, and tobacco are largely exported to Europe from the harbours of New Orleans and the east coast. Although the railways are few compared with the size of the country, the vast rivers render transport easy. It must also be noticed that not only the number and width, but also the *direction* of the rivers, is favourable to commerce. The goods of the west can be conveyed down the rivers flowing east into the Mississippi, which takes them down to New Orleans, while the Ohio and Tennessee convey them into the heart of the eastern states.

#### 6. Animals.

There are comparatively few carnivorous or flesh-eating animals in North America; and the principal are the brown and white bears of the north, the grizzly bears of the Rocky Mountains, the black bears further east, the panther, and the wolf. Besides these there are the bison, the musk ox, buffaloes, varieties of deer and antelope, in the tablelands of the west.

Deer are also found in the Appalachians. The "big-horn" sheep is found in the Rockies; and quantities of beavers, squirrels, minks, water-fowl, turkeys, and pigeons are to be met with all over the continent.

### 7. Races.

The few remaining Indian tribes scattered through North America bear in many ways a strong resemblance to those in the southern half of the continent. They are all copper-coloured, smooth-faced, with square figures and high cheek-bones. Writers differ greatly in their divisions of the Indians, but perhaps the best classification is that which gives three separate branches: The *Appalachians*, including all the native races of North America (except the inhabitants of Mexico); the *Brazilians*, including the peoples of Brazil and Paraguay; and the *Patagonians*, south of the La Plata. Besides these there are about 2,000 Fuegians scattered through the southern Archipelago, and a fair-skinned, pink-cheeked tribe, called the Kaluschi, in Alaska, who are supposed in distant times to have come over from Asia.

The vast territory between Hudson's Bay and the Gulf of Mexico was occupied, before the arrival of the European colonists, by many divisions of the Appalachian Indians. Among these were: 1. The *Delawares*, including many tribes, all speaking one language, spread over all the east of the Mississippi as far as the Atlantic and Hudson's Bay. 2. The *Iroquois*, including the Mohawks, Hurons, and others, lying south of the lakes. These finally overpowered the Delawares. 3. The *Florida* Indians, including the Choctaws, who spoke many dialects, and were scattered about the country occupied by the Delawares.

### 8. History and Government.

The first modern discovery of North America was made by Sebastian Cabot, who sighted the coast of Labrador in 1497. The earliest attempts at colonization were, however, made by the Spaniards in 1512, who gave the name of Florida to the whole country between the Gulf of Mexico and the St. Lawrence. The Spaniards took little root in the land, and had no power, nor indeed any permanent settlement, till St. Augustine (in Florida) was founded, in 1565.

The French were not much more successful after they sought to overstep the boundaries of their colonies in Acadia and Canada, planted in 1524. In the sixteenth century they crossed the St. Lawrence, and during this and the following century established a line of trading stations between Texas and Maine and New York, but these likewise were only temporary.

After the English expedition under Cabot, the next to be noticed is that sent out by Raleigh, which struggled to plant a colony in Virginia in 1584-9, but was forced reluctantly to give it up. Shortly after this a patent was given to two companies, one of which made a settlement in James Town, Virginia, in 1607. Other colonies followed; the Indians were driven further and further back, and from the year 1689 the English colonists sought to carry on in America the war which William III. in Europe waged against France and Louis XIV. These wars continued through every succeeding reign, till the final struggle, in 1759, when, in the battle on the plains of Abraham, the Marquis de Montcalm was defeated by Wolfe, and Quebec was taken. Four years later, at the peace of Paris, all the country east of the Mississippi was ceded to England.

All this time ill-feeling had been growing up between the mother country and America, not only in respect of matters of revenue, but also in the question of government. Measures passed between 1764 and the end of 1774 brought affairs to a crisis. Remonstrance on the part of the colonies was useless; war broke out in Massachusetts in February, 1775; Washington was shortly after named Commander-in-Chief, and on July 4th, 1776, there was a public Declaration of Independence. For two years the colonists fought alone, then they were joined by the French. The war continued till 1782, when the British troops began to leave the country, and peace was signed in 1783. The first care of the Americans was to organize themselves into a single nation, and at a Convention held in 1787, Washington was declared first President of the Republic. The government was vested in the President, elected every four years; a Senate, in which all the states in the union were to be represented equally; and a House of Representatives, returned according to population. Besides these there was to be a Court of Law. Provision was made for the immense number of slaves in America, by enacting that from the year 1808 the slave trade was to be put down. This clause occasioned a good deal of opposition, especially among the states in the south, where slaves were considered necessary to work in the cotton and sugar plantations; but after some struggles the Bill was passed. John Adams was President from 1797 to 1801, and was succeeded by T. Jefferson, elected twice (1801-9), and by Madison (1809-17). All this time fighting was going on against the British as well as against the Indians, till 1814, when peace was made. For several years before

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this the United States had been gradually acquiring fresh territory, and during the following years they annexed still more. The question of slavery again arose, and the States finally split into North and South, in regard to the holding of slaves in the new Missouri territory, part of the "Louisiana Purchase" of Jefferson, in 1803. At length, in 1820, the matter was compromised by allowing Missouri to become one with the slave-holding South; while the North took some other territory in compensation, in which slavery was forbidden. By the middle of the century, the vast extent of land acquired on the south-west borders compelled the President, much to the indignation of the South, to take measures against the introduction of slavery into the new dominions. This was the beginning of a disagreement, and after the election of President Lincoln, in 1860, the seven southern states declared that they would secede, and in 1861 elected Jefferson Davis as their own President. Four more states joined, and war was declared. A battle was fought at Bull's Run, near the Potomac, where the Federal or Northern army was defeated; but after a four years' hard contest the Federals were victorious, and by an Act passed in December, 1865, slavery was abolished, and the Confederate States were forced to rejoin the Union.

The country is governed by a President, elected every four years, aided by Ministers and a Congress, divided into two Chambers, a Senate and a House of Representatives. Besides this, every state has a Governor and a Senate of its own, and sends two Senators to Congress, and some Representatives, whose number depends on the population of the state. The Territories send only one Representative.

## NORTH-EASTERN STATES.

## NEW ENGLAND.

The six states that lie in the north-eastern corner of the United States are *Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut*. They are collectively called *New England*. These states are all well watered; for the St. John river flows through the north of Maine into the Bay of Fundy, and the Connecticut has a direct southerly course between Vermont and New Hampshire, and through Massachusetts and Connecticut into the Atlantic. Besides these there are many other smaller streams. The surface is high and broken (except on the low Atlantic coast), and on each side of the rich Connecticut valley are mountain ranges, that on the west, the Green Mountains, reaching an elevation of 4,000 feet. These are only a spur of the great Appalachian chain. Forests of maple, spruce, pine, beech, oak, and cedar abound in Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. Lakes are scattered over the whole country, and small islands stud the coast. As a rule, the soil is unproductive, and cattle-rearing is the principal occupation of the country inhabitants; but wherever it is possible corn, fruits, maple, sugar, and even tobacco (in Massachusetts and Connecticut) are grown. In the towns, ship-building, cotton manufacturing, and lumbering (or sending trees down the rivers for use in the towns) are the leading pursuits, and Maine and Massachusetts have a large population engaged in the cod, herring, whale, and mackerel fisheries. The climate, though cold, owing to the east winds, is healthy.

Massachusetts was colonized by the English in 1628, and was formed from the two states of Massachusetts and Plymouth, colonized in 1620. The settlement of the other New England States followed within the next 18 years. Vermont was not created a state till 1791, nor Maine till 1820.

The centre of *Maine* is drained by the Penobscot, whose source is in the Height of Land. Between it and the St. Croix, to the east, is a low country, known as White Pine Land. The chief town is *Augusta* (8,000), on the Kennebec; but *Portland* (33,000), on Casco Bay, is larger and more important.

#### Basin of the Connecticut.

*New Hampshire*, bounded on the west by the Connecticut, has for its capital *Concord* (13,000), on the river Merrimac, whose source is in the White Mountains. The state of Vermont, famous for its marble quarries, lies on the west side of the Connecticut, and has the Green Mountains in the centre, and the Height of Land on the north-east. In the north-west is a low district bordering Lake Champlain. Here *Burlington* (11,000), on the east of the lake, is able to transport wood both to the Hudson river and the St. Lawrence.

*Massachusetts*, to the south of Vermont and New Hampshire, is drained by the Connecticut, which divides the high lands and mountain region of the west from the undulating, broken country of the centre. Beyond this is a wide stretch of low lands, ending in the promontory of Cape Cod, enclosing Cape Cod Bay on three sides. South of this promontory are the islands of *Nantucket* and *Martha's Vineyard*. The chief town is *Boston* (362,000), on Massachusetts Bay.

It has an excellent harbour, and a railway leading into the interior. Boston is the second city in the Union, and is the seat of Harvard University, founded in 1636. *Bunker's Hill*, where a battle was fought in 1775, is near Boston. To the south is *Plymouth*, where the English Puritans, in the ship *Mayflower*, landed in 1620; while *New Bedford* (26,000), on Buzzard's Bay, sends out more whalers than any other port in the world. The river Connecticut enters the sea in the state of the same name, at the end of Long Island Sound, after a course of 350 miles.

*Connecticut* is watered by many rivers, and has a varied surface. It is principally a manufacturing state. *New Haven* (63,000), the capital, is on a bay surrounded by beautiful scenery.

*Rhode Island* is a little state wedged in between Connecticut and Massachusetts. Its eastern shore is broken into islands, on one of which is the fashionable bathing-place of *Newport* (15,000). *Providence* (104,000) is the capital, and has a coasting and foreign trade.

The group of states lying between the Lakes Ontario and Erie, and the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, have certain features in common. They are seven in number, and include New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the tiny district of Columbia, containing Washington, the capital of the Republic. All the states (except Delaware) are cut by the Appalachian Mountains, or else by their spurs. There are three of these ridges of mineral-yielding mountains, besides scattered groups. The eastern range is called the Blue Ridge, and the western the Alleghanies; while down the wide valleys between

flow numerous rivers, which make their way either into the Atlantic by the rapidly-falling ground, or through a gently-sloping plain to join the Ohio. The coast is marshy, and covered with swamps and pine and cedar forests; while further inland the soil is firmer, and yields good crops. Here the forests are of oak, chesnut, ash, hickory, box, and elm, and, on the mountain sides, of pine and spruce as well. Corn, wheat, and agricultural produce are principally cultivated (especially in New York); while in Maryland and Virginia there is much tobacco. Plumbago, zinc, marble, copper, lead, and even gold are found in the mountains, chiefly in those of Pennsylvania, and all these productions are easily transported down the rivers to the fine harbours on the coast. The climate increases in warmth as we go south, and the rainfall on the coast varies between 40 and 50 inches. Besides farming, mining, manufacturing, and market-gardening, the people of the Atlantic states are much given to oyster-fishing.

**Basins of the Hudson, the Susquehannah, and the Delaware.**

*New York State*, which contains the sources of all three rivers, was founded by the Dutch in 1614, and called by them the New Netherlands, while its capital received the name of New Amsterdam. Both these names were changed in 1664, when the state was ceded to England. New York is bounded on the west by Erie and Ontario, and on the east by Connecticut and Massachusetts, while New Jersey and Pennsylvania lie to the south. It is high in the centre and low on the west, and along the basin of the Hudson, which rises

in the Chateaugay range, and flows straight south. It receives the Mohawk river on its right bank, with the fashionable *Saratoga Springs* between the junction of the two streams, and further to the south is *Albany* (91,000), the state capital. On its way to the sea the Hudson passes numerous flourishing towns, and at its mouth, built between it and the East River, is the City of *New York* (1,200,000). New York is a handsome town, full of broad streets and squares. It has a splendid harbour, which throws the city open to the Old World, while railways connect it with the west. New York has an immense foreign trade and manufactures. *Brooklyn* (566,000), opposite New York, and on the west of *Long Island* (famous for its market gardens), shares the trade of New York. The west of the state slopes down from the Central Catskill Mountains to the low shores of Lake Ontario, and in all this country vast quantities of wheat, butter, cheese, maple-sugar, and wool are produced. *Buffalo* (155,000), on the north-east point of Lake Erie, trades with Canada. North of it are the celebrated Niagara Falls, where the river rushes over a precipice 160 feet in height, and half a mile in width. *New Jersey* (planted by the Swedes before 1632, and ceded to the English in 1664) is wedged in between New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware Bay, and the Atlantic. It lies in the basin of the Delaware, which rises up in the Catskill Mountains and flows into Delaware Bay, bounding New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Except in the north the land is low, and the country people are occupied in market gardening for the supply of New York, while in the towns the ores dug out of the neighbouring mountains are smelted. *Jersey City* (120,000), on the

west of New York Bay, is a manufacturing town ; and *Newark* (136,000), eight miles to the west, makes all kinds of india-rubber goods. The state capital, *Trenton*, (29,000) is on the Delaware. *Pennsylvania* (founded by the Quaker William Penn in 1682, but chiefly inhabited by Dutchmen) is bounded on the east by the Delaware, but lies mostly within the basin of the Susquehannah, which has a winding course from its source in the Catskills to its mouth in Chesapeake Bay. The river cuts its way through clefts between the high parallel mountain-chains of the centre till it reaches the low lands of the south-east. The west of Pennsylvania, which is an undulating tableland sloping from the Alleghanies to Lake Erie, is drained by the river Alleghany, a tributary of the Ohio. Here the people are occupied in farming and lumbering, and working the petroleum springs of the river valley, while in the east plumbago, zinc, lead, and copper are mined and smelted. There are large foundries at *Philadelphia* (847,000), founded by William Penn, which has a fine commercial situation on the Delaware, not far from the Schuylkill, and is connected with the west by one of the main railways of the United States. *Harrisburg* (30,000), the capital, and several other towns in the Susquehannah valley, work the coal and iron mines in their neighbourhood ; and so does *Pittsburg* (156,000), at the junction of the Alleghany and Monongahela rivers. There are large sulphur springs in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and salt to the west. *Delaware* (originally a Danish colony), a small state west of Delaware Bay, is chiefly taken up with market gardening. The largest town is *Wilmington* (45,000), which makes machinery and gunpowder. The state

capital is not, however, Wilmington, but the little town of *Dorer*, to the south. Across Chesapeake Bay lies *Maryland* (planted by Lord Baltimore in 1634), bounded on the west by the Potomac, which rises in the Alleghanies. Maryland is mountainous in the long, narrow strip on the north-west, and slopes down to the low swampy plain bordering the ocean. Tobacco growing is the principal industry; but among the mountains large coal mines are worked. *Baltimore* (332,000), west of Chesapeake Bay, exports grain and tobacco; and *Annapolis* (6,000), on the south, is the state capital. The *District of Columbia* is a tiny state on the banks of the Potomac, carved out of Maryland. It contains *Washington* (145,000), the national capital and residence of the President, and has a great arsenal. The Alleghanies and Blue Ridge lie on the west of *Virginia*, the first of the English colonies (planted in 1607), and form the watershed for the streams flowing into the Ohio, and those emptying themselves into the Arctic Ocean. The rest of the state is a well-watered plain, intersected along the shore by promontories and lakes. On the south are great pine forests, and on the south-east the famous Dismal Swamp, formerly the refuge of runaway slaves on their way to freedom in Canada. Oyster fishing is the main industry of the dwellers on the coast, while those in the interior cultivate tobacco. Alum and sulphur springs abound in Virginia. The James river, which rises in the Alleghanies, drains the centre of the state. *Lexington* is on a small branch on its left bank; and *Richmond* (63,000), the capital, a great Confederate stronghold in the civil war, is on the James river. Richmond contains large tobacco factories and flour mills.

With North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, we finish the states on the Atlantic seaboard. The two first were originally one; but in 1720 they were divided into two. *Georgia* was colonized in 1733 by Oglethorpe, and took its name from George II.; while Florida was planted by some Spaniards in 1565, and continued Spanish until it was bought by the United States in 1821.

The south portions of the Appalachians, which run along the west of the Carolinas and Georgia, are diversified by cross-chains and groups, and reach their greatest height in the Black Mountains. Numerous rivers cross the ridge, which abruptly separates the high ground from the wide plain, and make their way into the Atlantic, whose shores are broken into long, sandy islands, and bordered with pine-clad swamps. Of these, the Alligator's Swamp, in North Carolina, and the Everglades, in Florida, are the largest. Between the islands and the mainland is excellent anchorage for ships.

Florida is a low, marshy promontory, sweeping round from the Gulf of Mexico into the Atlantic, and intersected with many lakes. It is covered with oak forests, and trades largely in timber. Rice is produced in the coast lands of all these states, tobacco in North Carolina, and cotton in the south, while the mountain pines are cut down for shipbuilding. Oranges, figs, vines, and olives are plentiful, besides magnolias and other fine flowering shrubs.

Gold exists in great quantities in the Blue Ridge Mountains, in Georgia, which also contains coal and iron; while phosphates, used for manure, are to be found near Charleston, in South Carolina.

*Raleigh* (9,000), the capital of *North Carolina*, is in the centre of the state, and is a town of no importance. Cape Hatteras, which juts into the Atlantic, is on one of the long, narrow islands that fringe the coast. The chief river of *South Carolina* is the Santee, which rises in many branches in the mountains, and becomes a large stream at *Columbia* (10,000), in the "middle country," divided by a ridge from the swamps towards the coast. *Columbia* is the state capital, and has numbers of distilleries for the turpentine procured from the mountain pines. Along the coast, and guarded by Fort Sumter, is *Charleston* (50,000); twice besieged during the civil war. It has an excellent harbour, the greatest rice trade in the United States, and exports besides corn, tobacco, and cotton, the latter being chiefly sent to Manchester. The river Savannah, whose source is in the mountains, divides *South Carolina* from *Georgia*, which is enclosed on the west by the river Chattahoochee, and drained in the centre by the Altamaha. *Savannah*, near the mouth of the river, despatches from its harbour vessels laden with timber, rice, and cotton. *Atlanta* (37,000), the capital, is on the high ground east of the Chattahoochee, and has extensive ironworks. For a long distance the Chattahoochee separates *Georgia* from *Alabama*, and where it enters *Florida* receives the Flint. Both streams then take the name of the Appalachicola, and flow into the Gulf of Mexico. The towns of *Florida* (admitted to the Union 1845) are all small, *Tallahassee*, the capital, having only between 2,000 and 3,000 inhabitants. Turtles are to be caught in some parts of the coast, and sponges are exported. *St. Augustine*, on the Atlantic seaboard, was a Spanish settlement.

The Appalachian Mountains, which end in the north of Alabama, divide the river Tennessee (flowing into the Mississippi) from the rivers draining into the Gulf of Mexico. The principal of these, the Coosa, rises on the borders of Tennessee, and makes its way south between two high ridges till it receives the Tallapoosa, and both rivers then become the Alabama. From this point the course of the Alabama becomes very winding. On one of its bends is *Montgomery* (16,000), the capital, with a large cotton trade; and on leaving it the river pursues its way till it reaches Mobile Bay, at the head of which is *Mobile* (29,000). Mobile exports more cotton than any place in the Union except New Orleans. *Birmingham* (4,000), on the edge of the high country, has coal and iron-mines in the neighbourhood. Alabama originally formed part of Georgia, and afterwards was joined to Mississippi till it was made a separate state in 1819.

### **The Mississippi Basin**

**(including those of the Missouri and Ohio).**

Hitherto each state has had, as a rule, its own especial river; but we have now come to the mighty Mississippi, which drains all the centre of the United States.

The Mississippi rises in the state of *Minnesota* (admitted 1858) among some lakes south of the Height of Land. Here the elevation is about 1,500 feet. The country is covered with pine woods, both in the north and down the low range known as the Coteau du Grand Bois; for many of these places keep their old French names. On the west are the sources of the North Red River, flowing into Lake Winnipeg, and

that of the Minnesota, which waters the centre and south, and joins the Mississippi at St. Paul. *St. Paul* (41,000), the capital, trades in timber and in the wheat that forms the staple produce of these northern states. Shortly after leaving St. Paul, the river, which has cut a deep channel for itself, with steep cliffs or bluffs (varying from 200 to 600 feet) at a little distance from its banks, divides Minnesota from Wisconsin, and receives many tributaries on its left bank. Bluffs are characteristic of all these rivers. *Wisconsin* (admitted 1848) is bounded on the north-west by Lake Superior, and on the east by Lake Michigan. Except on the shores of this lake and along the Mississippi valley the country is high, and covered with forests of pine, beech, ash, maple, and other woods. Wheat and timber are the chief articles of trade, and these are easily exported, either by the Chippewa and Wisconsin rivers into the Mississippi, or by rail to *Milwaukee* (115,000), on the shores of Lake Michigan, and thence to the east. *Madison* (10,000), the capital, on a small lake, has a University. Lead is found in the south-west of the state. North of Wisconsin is the great promontory jutting out between Lakes Superior and Michigan, which forms part of the state of *Michigan* (admitted 1837). Here a hilly region yields a vast amount of copper, while iron is obtained from other places. The country to the east of the long, narrow Lake Michigan is low except in the centre, and yields gypsum, salt, and coal. Like all the states east of the Mississippi, it has numerous forests, and its chief trade is in the export of timber and minerals. *Lansing* (8,000), the capital, on the Grand River, is famous for its rapids and its magnetic springs. *Detroit* (116,000),

on a small stream, which empties itself into Lake Erie, trades largely with England by means of the St. Lawrence.

The rainfall in this country averages twenty-six inches. South-west of Lake Michigan is *Illinois* (admitted 1818), bounded by the Mississippi, the Wabash, and the Ohio, and drained in the centre by the Illinois, flowing out of Lake Michigan. Coal and lead are found in the west, but farming and lumbering are the chief occupations of the inhabitants. *Chicago* (503,000), on the shores of Lake Michigan, is the principal market of the St. Lawrence, and receives and exports the minerals, grain, timber, and pork of the neighbouring states. Pork is one of the staple articles of commerce in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. *Springfield* (19,000), the capital of Illinois, is near the river Sangamon.

We must now go back and consider the river Missouri, which falls into the Mississippi in the state of Missouri. The Missouri has its source in the territory of *Montana* (organized 1864) among the Rocky Mountains, and at a height of between 7,000 and 8,000 feet. Montana, which is very thinly populated, contains large quantities of gold and silver, besides coal, iron, and lead. Along the Yellowstone (which drains the south) are magnificent geysers, or hot spouting springs; the river falls in numerous cascades, one being 397 feet high. The rivers flow through deep ravines, called cañons, often many miles long and thousands of feet in height. There are likewise many "parks" or enclosed valleys, with fertile soil, where corn and wheat can be grown; but in general the country is bare, except for the pine forests of the Rockies. *Virginia City* (600), on the south of the mountains, is the chief town.

Leaving Montana, the Missouri enters the territory of *Dakota* (organized 1861), and takes a southerly course through a hilly country, till it finally receives the James river on the borders of Nebraska, near *Yankton* (3,000), the chief town. Pasturage is the principal industry of the inhabitants of *Dakota*, and the prairies, which begin on the east of the state, extend into Iowa. *Iowa* (admitted 1846) is a hilly state, bare of wood, except in the belts of land that lie between the rivers and the bluffs, known as "bottom land." It has abundance of water, the Missouri bounding it on the west, and the Mississippi on the east, the latter receiving the great tributaries of the Cedar and the Des Moines. Corn, hay, wheat, and oats are grown; in the rich grass prairies of the centre and west cattle are bred, and butter and cheese are produced. In the east the people are engaged in mining the coal and lead that exist towards the Mississippi. *Des Moines* (22,000), the capital, is in the centre of Iowa, on the river Des Moines, which rises in Minnesota. It trades in coal and timber. *Dubuque* (22,000), on the Mississippi, trades in lead.

The Missouri now receives on its right bank the river Platte, of which one branch rises in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming, and the other in those of Colorado. From this point south and west stretches a vast plateau of (cretaceous) sands, clays, and limestones, whose soil is rich in those places where the water or rainfall is sufficient. *Wyoming Territory* (admitted 1869) is a mountainous country, so thinly populated that its inhabitants only number 90,000. Its chief town, *Cheyenne* (3,000), on the south, is on two railways—one going west to San Francisco, and one going south into New Mexico. The river Platte flows through the centre

of Wyoming, and then continues its easterly course through *Nebraska* (admitted 1866). A region of high sand-hills divides the Platte from a tributary of the Missouri, and the San Francisco and New York railway runs parallel with the main stream. The produce of the grazing lands of Nebraska is sent down the rivers, and *Omaha* (30,000), on the Missouri, above its junction with the Platte, is the market for the wool and butter, as well as the timber, of the bottom lands. *Lincoln* (13,000), on the river Saline, is the state capital. The Missouri flows on southwards for some distance, dividing the states of Missouri and Kansas, till at the town of Kansas it turns straight east. *Kansas* (admitted 1861) is a plateau 4,000 feet in height, and with a magnificent supply of rivers. The west is a treeless and dry plain, but this gives place to a rich soil adapted for agriculture and pasturage, with trees along the river banks. The north is drained by the Kansas (which rises in Colorado) and its tributaries, the Smoky Hill Fork and the Republican, both of which have many branches. *Topeka* (15,000) is on the Kansas, and communicates with the west by means of the Pacific Railway. *Leavenworth* (16,000), further north on the Missouri, trades in flour and timber. The south of Kansas is within the basin of the Arkansas river, whose source is in Colorado. After receiving the Kansas, the Missouri turns right across the state of *Missouri* (admitted 1821) at *Kansas City* (55,000), which trades largely in pork, cattle, and iron. Missouri has a diversified surface, growing more broken in the south, where the Ozark Mountains run between the Osage and Gasconade rivers. Forests of pine, oak, ash, and maple abound, and rye, oats, wheat, sweet potatoes, hemp, and vines

flourish. Missouri is also rich in minerals. Lead is found in the south, salt and other springs in the centre, and magnificent iron ore is obtained from the Iron Mountain near the river St. Francis.

The state capital, *Jefferson* (5,000), is in the centre, above the union of the winding Osage with the Missouri, and further east, on the Mississippi, below its junction with the Missouri, is *St. Louis* (350,000), which, by means of the great rivers, can trade with the west, south, and north, and by its numerous railways with the east. The entire length of the Missouri is 2,900 miles.

The Mississippi divides Missouri from Illinois, and on the south of the latter state is swelled by the Ohio, whose source is among the Alleghanies, in the state of *West Virginia*, carved out of Virginia in 1862. West Virginia is high and well drained by the tributaries of the Ohio, the largest of which is the great Kanawha river. The chief town, *Wheeling* (30,000), on the north, on the Ohio, is in the midst of a rich coal country. Leaving West Virginia, the Ohio makes a loop through south-west Pennsylvania, joins the Alleghany river, and bounding the state of *Ohio* (admitted 1802) on the east and south, divides it from West Virginia. Ohio (which, like all the states between the Ohio and Mississippi, was organized in 1787 into the North-west Territory) consists of high ground, except along the river valleys, and on the shores of Lake Erie to the north. It has productive coal and iron basins, and mineral springs in the south-west; but the greater part of the population are engaged in agriculture, and more butter, cheese, pork, and wool are exported from Ohio than from any

other state in the Mississippi basin. *Cleveland* (160,000), on Lake Erie, has important oil and ironworks; and *Toledo* (50,000), also on the lake further west, exports the grain of this part of the country. The state capital, *Columbus* (51,000), is in the centre, on the Scioto, running into the Ohio; but the largest town in the state is *Cincinnati* (255,000), on the Ohio, which sends pork and other agricultural produce down the Mississippi to New Orleans, and eastwards by rail to New York. It also builds steamboats.

The Ohio flows on westwards, bounding *Indiana* (admitted 1816). Indiana is drained chiefly by the river Wabash, which bounds it on the south-west, and receives the White River some time before it falls into the Ohio. Except in the south-east corner Indiana is low, with extensive forests, like most of these northern states, and rich grazing and agricultural lands. Timber, pork, and corn are the chief articles of trade, and these have their markets at *Fort Wayne* (27,000), *Lafayette* (14,000), and *Terre Haute* (26,000), all on the Wabash, and at *Indianapolis* (75,000), the capital, on the White River.

*Kentucky* (admitted 1792) lies on the left bank of the Ohio, and is a high broken country, with the Cumberland Mountains (spurs of the Alleghanies) on the south-east. The south-west region, however, is included in the plain of the Mississippi. Besides agricultural produce, large hemp and tobacco plantations exist throughout the state, and cotton and silk are manufactured. The principal markets for these are at *Covington* (29,000) and at *Newport* (20,000), practically suburbs of Cincinnati, and at *Louisville* (23,000), on the left bank of the Ohio. *Lexington* (17,000), the

capital, is in the centre. The Ohio falls into the Mississippi in the west of Kentucky after a course of 1,200 miles. It is navigable throughout. The south-west corner of Kentucky is drained by the Cumberland and the Tennessee, which flow parallel to each other, before discharging themselves into the Ohio. They form the principal rivers of *Tennessee*, once included in North Carolina, and colonized from there in 1757. It was admitted to the Union in 1796. On the east are the long ranges of the Appalachians, or Alleghanies, from which the ground falls towards the west. The Tennessee river, which rises by its southern branches on the frontiers of Georgia, and by its northern ones in Virginia, makes its way through breaches in the mountains, and after a bend through the north of Alabama re-enters Tennessee, and flows straight north to the Ohio. The Cumberland, whose source is in the east of Kentucky, drains the north of the state. *Chattanooga* (12,000), on the Tennessee, among the South Appalachians, works the coal and iron of the neighbouring mines. *Nashville* (43,000), on a bend of the Cumberland, is the chief town, and trades in the grain, cotton, and tobacco for which Tennessee is famous. These articles are likewise transported from *Memphis* (33,000), on the Mississippi.

Continuing to trace the Ohio southwards, the next great tributary that falls in is the Arkansas, which rises among the Rocky Mountains of *Colorado* (admitted 1876). Here, and in the neighbouring state of *Wyoming*, the Rocky Mountains have a greater average height than in any other part of the states, and one mountain—Gray's Peak—is over 14,200 feet. The chain is here broken for a moment, and spurs are thrown

out on all sides. The valleys so formed are known as "Parks." They afford fine pasturage and good agricultural land, and towards the mountains there are forests, chiefly of white pine. Colorado is extraordinarily rich in gold, silver, and coal, and mining is the principal industry of the mountain cities. From *Denver* (35,000), its capital, on the South Platte, where the Pacific railroad terminates, the minerals are sent east. After flowing through Colorado and the south of Kansas, the Arkansas turns into the unorganized *Indian territory*, drained in the centre by the branches of the Canadian river, which rises up in New Mexico, and joins the Arkansas in the east of the Indian territory; while to the south it is bounded by the Red River. The country is mostly high, with forest-covered ranges in the south, and is inhabited by about 64,000 Indians.

The *Cherokees* live to the east of the Arkansas; the *Cheyennes*, *Arrapahoes*, and *Pawnees* to the west; while the *Comanches* and *Apaches* and *Chickasaws* live on the south, and the *Choctaws* to the south-east. *Tahlequah*, on the east, is their chief town.

The state of *Arkansas*, into which the river next flows, was planted by the French as early as 1685, was bought by the States in 1803, created a territory in 1819, and a state in 1836. It consists of undulating plains, sloping towards the Mississippi, which bounds it on the east. The north is drained by the White river, the centre by the Arkansas, which falls into the Mississippi after a course 1,500 miles, and the south by the Washita river. Arkansas contains some profitable zinc mines, granite and slate quarries, and hot mineral springs. Cattle and corn are the chief productions of

the state, which is rich prairie land, and along the rivers cotton is grown. *Little Rock* (13,000), the capital, is on the river Arkansas, in the centre of the state, and exports down the Mississippi the produce of the country. *Mississippi* state, bounded to the west by the great river, was settled by a few French in 1716, but was very thinly peopled till fifty years later, when the other states overflowed into it. It was created a territory in 1798, and a state in 1817. The country is low, and cotton is the staple produce, though rice is grown on the swampy land of the coast. Molasses is made from the sugar-canes, and is much appreciated by the people, and the pine trees grown in the sandy lands near the sea are exported. The towns are small. *Vicksburg* (11,000), the largest, on the Mississippi, and *Natchez* (7,000), lower down, both trade in cotton, and so does *Jackson* (5,000), the capital, west of the Pearl River. The Red River, which has a course of 1,200 miles, rises high up in one corner of Texas, divides the state from the Indian territory, cuts off a wedge of Arkansas, and enters Louisiana, where it takes a south-west direction, receives the Washita, and falls into the Mississippi. *Louisiana*, a French colony of 1699, became a Spanish possession in 1762, and was regained by the French in 1800 only to be sold with Texas and other western states to the United States in 1803. It was created a state nine years later. The level of the country is very low, and the constant winds blowing from the Gulf of Mexico cause frequent inundations, so that much of the soil of the state is made of alluvial deposit. There are many lakes, which in the dry season become marshes. *Pontchartrain*, the largest, is about 100 miles from the mouth of the river. Rice, cotton,

and sugar are raised all over Louisiana, and are exported from *New Orleans* (216,000), on the Mississippi. New Orleans has a larger cotton trade than any other place in the world, and sends most of its wares to Manchester. The manufactories of cigars and brass are numerous, and there is a great sugar market. Pine woods grow on the low shores, and dykes and defences against the river have to be made for more than 200 miles. The climate is hot and wet, the annual rainfall being forty-nine inches. Creepers and flowering shrubs, with thick glossy leaves, grow in profusion; but the prospect is dreary as the eye looks over the numerous creeks and rivers to the west, winding over the plain, which is generally covered with monotonous pine woods. Leaving New Orleans, the Mississippi pursues its way till it spreads out into a delta in a narrow tongue of land, and reaches the Gulf of Mexico, after a course (including the Missouri) of 4,200 miles. The river Sabine divides Louisiana from *Texas* (admitted 1845). In the north corner, drained by the Canadian and the Red River, dwell the Indian tribes of Comanches, Kiowas, and Apaches, and in this region large beds of gypsum are found. The country here, and indeed over most of Texas, is a high level plain, except where broken by mountains and the deep "cañons" of the rivers. To the west is the "llano estacado" or "staked plain," on the edge of which rise the Brazos, the Colorado, and other rivers. In the centre is a belt of thickly-growing locust trees, which never attain a height of more than thirty feet. On these dry plains herds of cattle feed, and corn is produced; but on the south side of a chain of limestone hills, which separates the plateau from the low

lands, cotton and sugar are grown, as well as indigo and some coffee. The shore is broken into long, narrow islands, often forming fine harbours. *Galveston* (22,000) is on one of these, and exports corn, cotton, and sugar. *Austin* (the capital), is on the edge of the plateau, on the Colorado. The San Antonio and the Nueces drain the west of Texas, which slopes down to the Rio Grande del Norte, the boundary line between the United States and Mexico. This great river, which has a course of 1,500 miles, rises up in South Colorado, and flows through the Territory of *New Mexico* (organized 1850) watering by a small tributary the chief town of *Santa Fe* (6,000). East and west are high ranges with tablelands between, the most westerly chain forming the watershed for the tributaries of the Western Colorado, and for those of the Rio Grand. To the east is the basin of the Rio Pecos, which drains the "Llano Estacado," and joins the Rio Grande in Texas. New Mexico, which is very thinly populated, has a dry and healthy climate, though the days and nights, especially in the plains, differ greatly in temperature. Near *Sant' Aña*, in the south, on the Rio Grande, are rich silver mines.

#### PACIFIC SLOPE.

##### Basin of the Colorado.

The Colorado, which has a course of 1,000 miles before flowing into the Gulf of California, rises in Wyoming under the name of the Green River, and also in Colorado under the name of the Grand River. These unite in *Utah* territory (organised 1850) through breaches in the mountains, and water a plateau over 6,000 feet high. The rivers force their way through the deep

cañons characteristic of this part of the world, one of which, the Black Cañon, is 300 miles long and 3,000 feet deep. West of the rivers are the Wasatch Mountains, and in the north of the Territory is the Great Salt Lake, 300 miles round, with *Salt Lake City* (20,000) on the south on a tableland, 4,500 feet high. This town is the home of the Mormons (a religious sect which allows men to have many wives), and was founded in 1847. The Mormons have, by incessant labour, changed the barren plain into productive soil. Near the mountains, where the melting of the snow supplies the streams, grazing and agriculture are carried on. Utah Lake is south of the Salt Lake, and there are other lakes scattered over the country. The Colorado next passes into *Arizona* (organized 1863), a plateau of 8,000 feet, crossed by many ranges, and watered by many rivers. The centre is drained by the Little Colorado, and the south by the Gila, which rises in New Mexico, crosses the Pinaleno chain, and falls into the Colorado at Fort Yuma. Besides the usual industries of grazing and agriculture, which are carried on wherever possible, mining occupies the people of Arizona, where gold and silver are found in great quantities. *Tucson* (7,000), the chief town, is on the Gila. For the last 500 miles of its course, where it bounds Arizona, the Colorado flows through a fertile strip of bottom land, and is navigable. West of it lies *California*, ceded by Mexico in 1848, and created a state in 1850. The many-peaked Sierra Nevada (from 10,000 to 15,000 feet) stretch southwards from Mount Shasta (more than 14,000 feet) as far as lat. 35°, where, south of Mount Whitney (15,000), they bend towards the west. On their east side are

many lakes ; while, on the west, multitudes of streams go to join the two rivers, the Sacramento, which runs straight south, and the San Joaquin, which runs straight north, joining the Sacramento before it flows into the deeply-indented San Francisco Bay. These rivers have cut their bed through a valley, to the west of which rises the Coast Range, sloping to the high lands bordering the Pacific, and merging itself on the south into the Sierra Santa Lucia and the Sierra San Bernardino. Off the south-west coast are many large islands. The eastern side of the Sierra Nevada is sharp, while on the west it is long and sloping. Here the valleys are numerous and beautiful, the most noted of all being the Yösêmîtě, drained by the Merced, a tributary of the San Joaquin. The trees grow to an enormous height, and a waterfall 2,500 feet high descends in three cataracts. The Sierra Nevada are clothed with great forests of pine and cypress, and are rich in gold, silver, and other minerals ; while the lower coast ranges yield immense quantities of quicksilver, especially along the Salinas river, and at New Almaden. Though in summer, from May to October, the vegetation is burnt up, the plentiful winter rains, and numerous streams, fertilize the soil ; herds of horses and cattle pasture on the grass, and oranges, figs, vines, tea, coffee, mulberries, olives, corn, wheat, oats, barley, and common fruits are raised in abundance by the inhabitants. *Sacramento* (21,000), on the Sacramento, is the chief town, and trades in gold, which is exported, together with the rest of the native produce, from *San Francisco* (234,000), at the mouth of a large bay running far inland. San Francisco is the terminus of the railway stretching across the continent to New York, and, like

most of the towns, has come into existence since the cession in 1848.

East of California is *Nevada* (admitted 1864), consisting of a plateau 4,500 feet high, known as the Great Basin, cut by mountain ranges, all distinct from each other, and running from north to south. The river Humboldt flows on the north, past the Humboldt Mountains, and empties itself into a lake of the same name, one of the many salt basins east of the Sierra Nevada. Silver is mined in great quantities, especially at *Virginia* (11,000), the chief town. In the south the Muddy Salt Mine yields tons of the best salt.

#### Basin of the Columbia.

The state of Oregon, and the territories of Washington and Idaho, lie within the basin of the Columbia, which rises by its north branch in British Columbia, and by the south branch on the borders of Wyoming, and after a course of 1000 miles empties itself into the Pacific. *Idaho* (organized 1863), is drained throughout most of its extent by the Snake or Lewis River. The country is high and craggy, and crossed by mountain ranges. The inhabitants of late have begun to cultivate the soil, wherever it is possible, and to raise herds of cattle, but gold and silver mining is the chief industry. Mines are worked at *Boisé City* (2,000), the capital, a mountain town, and at *Idaho* (700), to the north-east. The Bitter Root Mountains bound Idaho on the north-east, and between them and the Rockies runs the Clarke River, a tributary of the Columbia. *Oregon State* (admitted 1859) is well watered, being bounded on the east by the Lewis River, and on the north by the Columbia ; while on the west small streams flow

into the Pacific. The surface is high (except along the Willamette Valley. The Blue Mountains and their spurs occupy the east, the forest-covered Cascade Range varying from 10,000 to 15,000 feet, and containing many active volcanoes, lies to the west, and along the Pacific is the coast range. In the centre are many lakes. The Cascade Mountains attract the western rains, and on this side the rainfall is very heavy, and at Astoria, on the mouth of the Columbia, reaches eighty-six inches. In this western region the soil is fertile, and rich crops of grain are raised and exported from *Albany* (20,000), on the Willamette. *Salem* (2,000), lower down the river, is the capital, and sends grain and timber to the Columbia. *Washington Territory* (organized 1863) lies on the north bank of the river, and is bounded on the north by British Columbia. It is separated from Vancouver's Island by the Juan de Fuca Straits, and the coast is most curiously broken into islands towards the land. The (volcanic) Great Plain of Columbia is enclosed between the Columbia and the Snake rivers on the east. Lumbering is the principal trade of Washington, as the mountains are covered with pine, cypress, and red-wood; but among the lowlands of Puget Sound are rich coal-beds. *Olympia* (7,000), at the head of this Sound, is the capital, and exports timber.

The recently-acquired territory of *Alaska*, which formerly belonged to Russia, stretches northwards from lat. 55°, and is bounded on the east by the British dominions, on the north by the Arctic Ocean, on the west by Behring Straits, and on the south by the Pacific. Its south and west coasts are broken, the eninsula of Alaska stretching far into the sea. The

surface generally is about 800 feet high, but reaches a greater elevation in the south. The centre is drained by the Yukon, whose source is on the east of the Cascade range. It falls into Behring Strait after a course of 1,600 miles. The climate is naturally very cold, but evergreen shrubs grow near the sea. Hunting is the principal occupation of the 30,000 Esquimaux and Indians who inhabit Alaska, and trade in the skins of animals and seals.

## CHAPTER II.

### MEXICO.

SOUTH of Arizona and New Mexico, and west of the Rio del Norte and the Gulf of Mexico, is the celebrated country of Mexico, including the two peninsulas of Lower California on the west, and Yucatan on the south-east.

All the east coast and most of the west (bordering the Gulf of California) is low, but the plain lying along the Mexican Gulf is backed by the Sierra Madre, (whose highest peak is nearly 14,000 feet), covered with cedars, oaks, ash, walnuts, and pines. In the valleys cotton-plants grow, besides willow and sycamores. The centre of Mexico is a high, bare plateau, reaching 8,000 feet in the neighbourhood of the city of Mexico, and bounded on the west by the Pinaleno Mountains, which give place to the hot, low lands on the Gulf of California. On the south the country narrows, and volcanoes rise out of the tableland. The highest of these are *Popocateptl*, south of Mexico; *Orizaba*, among the Sierra Madre, both nearly 18,000 feet; *Iztaccihuatl*, to the south-east; and *Toluca*, on the south-west, both over 15,000 feet. Lower Cali-

fornia is a long, narrow promontory, consisting of a mountain chain running out between the Pacific and the Gulf of California. Yucatan is bordered by low ground, with a central tableland. The rivers are few, and are not navigable except for a short distance. There are many lakes, the largest being Chapala, north of Mexico.

### 1. Climate.

In the high plateau of the centre, which never attains to more than 8,000 feet, the climate is temperate. On the mountain peaks it is, of course, much colder, and in the low lands of the sea-coast much warmer. The shores of the Gulf of Mexico are far the wettest, owing to the prevalence of the north-east trade winds, and in some places the rain (from May to October) reaches 183 inches. On the west side little rain falls, and the centre is very dry. The country is subject to earthquakes.

### 2. Productions.

In the healthy central or temperate zone grains, vegetables, fruits, cotton, olives, tobacco, vines, and mulberries are plentiful; on the higher slopes wheat and barley, with pine forests above them. In the hot coast lands indigo, cotton, coffee, chocolate, sugar-cane, cassava, and bananas grow abundantly, besides palms, bamboos, creepers, and orchids. There are brilliant birds and insects, from one of which, the cochineal, a scarlet dye is made and exported.

### 3. Minerals.

Vast quantities of sulphur are obtained from Popocateptl; gypsum and salt from Anahuac, south of Mexico; gold, silver, iron, copper, lead, and zinc in the

Pinaleno Mountains. Gold is found in a porphyry mountain in Vera Cruz, and there are immense silver mines at Guanaxato, in the tableland; in Zacatecas and Potosi, in the centre; and in the Sierra Madre. Copper is also found at Guanaxato and in other places. Amethysts and chalcedonies exist in various parts.

#### 4. People.

The inhabitants of Mexico have been estimated at 9,276,000, and nearly two-thirds of the population are Indians of various tribes, and speaking an endless variety of dialects. Of these tribes the *Apaches*, in the north, are the principal. The *Aztecs* dwelt east and south of Mexico, and came originally from the north. There are besides Spaniards, French, Germans, and other Europeans in the towns, and a quantity of *Mestizoes*, or half-castes, scattered up and down the country.

#### 5. History.

The earliest inhabitants of Mexico of whom we have any knowledge are the *Toltecs*, who entered Mexico from the north about the seventh century. No sooner were they firmly established in the country than they began building magnificent temples, cultivating the soil, making splendid gardens and fine palaces, and compiling laws and customs, which show that they had already reached a high stage of civilization. Their written language was hieroglyphics, or picture-writing. The *Toltecs*, who were a comparatively peaceful people, gave place in the twelfth century to the *Chichimecas*, and shortly after to the *Aztecs*, a more warlike nation from the north, who founded the new city of Tenochtitlan, or Mexico, in 1325, and built more temples, where

the most beautiful captives, youths and maidens, were crowned with flowers and then sacrificed. The Mexicans were very skilful with their hands, and carvings are scattered over their ruined temples, though the brilliant hangings and garments of featherwork, made of the plumage of the quetzal, have long since perished. It was in 1519 that the Spaniard Hernando Cortes left Cuba, with a handful of men, in order to conquer Mexico. He landed at the spot where Vera Cruz ("the True Cross") now stands, and made his way to Mexico, where he was hospitably received by the Emperor Montezuma, whom he shortly afterwards deprived of his empire (1521). Mexico remained a Spanish province for three centuries, and was governed by a viceroy till 1808, when, like all the other Spanish dominions, it was thrown into confusion by the deposition of the Spanish king, and resolved to become free. In 1824, after Iturbide, one of the insurgents, had been for two years emperor, it succeeded in gaining independence. In 1845, after hostilities of some years' standing, the United States forced Mexico to acknowledge the cession of Texas, and three years after Mexico was further shorn of New Mexico and Upper California. From 1850 to 1860 the country was in a most turbulent state; and in 1862 a French army landed and overran Mexico, and in the following year the Archduke Maximilian was declared emperor. His rule only lasted four years, and in 1867 he was put to death by some of his revolted subjects. The government was then established on the basis settled in 1857, and consists at present of twenty-three states with equal rights, at the head of which is a president; but the country is always in a very unsettled state.

## 6. Towns.

The towns, which are collections of one-storied houses, surrounded by lovely gardens, are mostly built on the tablelands. *Mexico* (230,000), the capital, is on a plain, 7,465 feet high, broken with lakes, and covered with cornfields, with the great volcanoes towering behind. It has a magnificent cathedral. East of the lake is *Tezcuco*, famous in Mexican history. A railway runs from Mexico to *Vera Cruz* (10,000), the principal sea-port, terribly subject to yellow fever. *Puebla* (75,000), on a high tableland, west of the Sierra Madre, has large manufactures; and *Guadalajara* (70,000), north of Lake Chapala, near the river Santiago, has a fine cathedral.

*Lower California* consists of a long, narrow promontory, which slopes in high terraces towards the Gulf of California and to the Pacific. The rocks are chiefly granite, and on these are extensive forests of pine and oak. Acacias and palms flourish in all parts. The cactus and aloe form the vegetation of the bare plains; while oranges, olives, and cocoanut palms grow on the coast.

The population numbers 20,000, and is composed of Spaniards and half-castes. *La Paz* (2,000), on La Paz Bay, on the east side, is the chief town, and eighty miles to the south of it are mines of silver, gold, copper, and lead. The islands in the Gulf of California are covered with sea birds, and guano is largely exported for purposes of manure. *Carmen Island* has salt beds, and on the south of the peninsula are pearl fisheries.

The peninsula of *Yucatan*, which juts out into the Gulf of Mexico, is a tableland skirted by low ground.

It is peopled chiefly by *Maya* Indians and *Mestizoes*, amounting to 422,000, and many of the former are slaves to the white men. The climate, though hot, is healthy, and the rainfall reaches 66 inches on the coast. Coffee, cotton, hemp, sugar, tobacco, and maize are cultivated ; while cattle feed on the high lands.

The chief towns are *Merida* (35,000), on the edge of the plain, and *Campeche*, on the Gulf of Campeche. Near *Merida*, and indeed all over Yucatan, are magnificent ruins, many centuries old, and still finer ones are to be found at Uxmal, to the east.

We have described *British Honduras*, or *Belize*, in another place (vol. i.), so we shall at once pass on to the five republics which form

### CHAPTER III.

#### CENTRAL AMERICA.

THESE republics, by name Guatemala, Honduras, San Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, have many things in common.

In the first place, till 1839 the *history* of one is the history of all. Columbus discovered and landed on the eastern shores in 1502 (America gets its name from one of his sailors, Amerigo Vespucci), and twenty-three years later the country was conquered by Spain, in whose possession it remained till 1823, when the people threw off the yoke, and bound themselves together into a confederacy. This state of things only lasted till 1839. Since that time they have been constantly fighting among themselves, and though they are all supposed to have a President and a Constitution, the

former is frequently changed, and the latter is seldom carried out. Guatemala is at present perhaps the best governed of the republics.

2. The western coasts are high (with the exception of Nicaragua), containing many active volcanoes, the peaks of some reaching 13,000 feet. *Costa Rica*, on the south, is entirely volcanic, and has several cones between 11,000 and 12,000 feet. East of the mountains is a tableland, which gives place to terraces, till the low shores of the Gulf of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are reached. Only *Costa Rica* is high throughout.

3. The soil of all the Republics is fertile (owing in a great measure to its being volcanic), and the rainfall is heaviest on the east, on account of the east trade winds. There are many lakes, that of *Nicaragua* being very large, and many rivers; but with the exception of the San Juan, which flows from Lake Nicaragua into the Caribbean Sea, they are only navigable for a few miles.

4. The produce is much the same in all. There are dense woods (thickest in the east, where the rainfall is heaviest), composed of mahogany, rosewood, logwood, palms, india-rubber trees, and enormous ceiba trees, with orchids, creepers, and rare ferns, the home of brilliant parrots, humming birds, toucans, and the quetzal, more brilliant than any; also of jaguars, monkeys, snakes, and insects. Besides the valuable forest trees, Central America yields medicinal plants, such as sarsaparilla and balsam, as well as coffee (introduced within the present century), rice, tobacco, indigo, vanilla, maize, sugar, chocolate, cotton, and cochineal (an insect). Horses, mules, and cattle graze on the high praries or savannahs.

5. They are very rich in minerals ; but the mines are comparatively little worked. Silver, gold, copper, zinc, and iron are scattered over the country, and gold is sometimes found in the streams.

*Guatemala*, which is a high tableland with mountains on the Pacific coast, is inhabited by 1,190,000 people, principally *Quiche* Indians, whose sacred book is the *Popol Vuh*. The capital is *Guatemala* (40,000), on the centre tableland.

*Honduras* is divided by a range of mountains running north and south, thus making two tablelands, which afford pasture to herds of wild cattle. The people (351,000) are Carib Indians, with a few whites.

The chief town is *Comayagua* (8,000), in the centre, and *Truxillo*, west of Cape Honduras, is the chief port. As in Yucatan, there are many ruined buildings, telling of former greatness and civilization, especially in the west.

*San Salvador* lies between Honduras and the Pacific, and has a ridge of low volcanic cones, not more than 2,000 feet high, along the coast, and further inland a higher range with peaks over 13,000 feet. The eruptions from these mountains have so frequently destroyed the capital, San Salvador, that twenty years ago the inhabitants decided to found a new city ; but as they built the *New San Salvador* (20,000) very near the old one, they are little better off.

The indigo of San Salvador is reckoned the best in the world, and is exported.

The people, who number 554,000, are mostly Indians and negroes, and are very turbulent.

*Nicaragua* has a belt of low land on its Pacific shores shut in by volcanoes, beyond which in a rich

plain lie the Lake of Managua, and Nicaragua. Here coffee, sugar-canes, tobacco, and indigo, which grow on the fertile soil of the igneous and volcanic rocks, are exported. Beyond this plain is a central range with wide prairies and broken valleys down the east, forming the bed of the rivers which flow into the Atlantic.

*Leon* (25,000), the capital, is among the mountains of the west, and *Granada* (15,000), on Lake Nicaragua, is an important town.

The population is 300,000, chiefly Indians, negroes, and half-castes. Along the Atlantic is the low, densely-wooded *Mosquito Coast*, with a population of 3,000.

*Costa Rica*, the "rich coast," has a central high volcanic range, and is broken into two promontories on the Pacific. It has many hot springs, owing to the volcanoes, and thick forests. In spite of its fertility it is thinly peopled, though the 185,000 inhabitants are industrious and prosperous. *San José* (25,000), the capital, is in the centre.

## CHAPTER IV.

### WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

BEFORE passing on to South America (which includes the Isthmus of Darien or Panama) we must examine the West Indian Islands, enclosing the Caribbean Sea on the east.

We have already considered those islands that belong to England, and have remarked how they are divided into the *Bahamas*, the *Greater Antilles*, and the *Lesser Antilles*, sometimes known as the *Caribbee Islands*.

A large number of the *Caribbee Islands* are volcanic,

and are frequently visited by earthquakes. Some of them are merely coral reefs, like the Bahamas, and the rubbing of the Atlantic currents has worn the east coasts flat.

The *Greater Antilles*, including Cuba, Hayti, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico, have richly wooded mountain ranges running from east to west, and extensive plains, watered by short rivers, more useful to water the soil than for navigation.

### 1. Climate.

Sea breezes temper the heat of the climate, which varies little in temperature. Where the land is high it is very healthy ; but the low, swampy regions harbour the deadly yellow fever. The rainy season in the north is heaviest in May, June, and July ; while in the south the wettest months are August and September. The rainfall in Guadalupe is 292 inches.

The islands are subject to hurricanes.

### 2. Productions.

The soil is as a rule exceedingly fertile, and yields sugar, coffee, cotton, tobacco, cocoa, spices, bananas, yams, arrowroot, vanilla, manioc (which makes tapioca), rice, indigo, cocoanuts, ginger, pineapples, guava, and other fruits.

Minerals are few, except on the larger islands. There are no wild animals, but large numbers of bats and birds, especially humming birds, and insects. There are also turtles, and many sorts of fish.

### 3. People.

The inhabitants found here by the Spaniards were Indians, very gentle and harmless in the north, but fiercer in the south. They have all died out, and their

place has been taken by negroes imported from Africa, and mixed races.

## CUBA.

Cuba, the largest and most north-westerly of the islands, is nearly 800 miles long, with mountains running through it, broken by intervening plains, and low coasts on the east and south. These mountains are well wooded, and yield copper; and from them short rivers flow to the sea on each side. The north coast is broken into islands, and the south coast into fine bays and promontories.

Cuba, which, like almost all these islands, was discovered by Columbus, was settled by the Spaniards in 1511, and still belongs to them. It is divided into three departments, and is governed, like *Puerto Rico*, also a Spanish possession, by a captain-general, aided by subordinate magistrates.

The population numbers 1,500,000, half of which are white, and the rest negroes, mostly slaves.

The western department contains much low ground, planted with tobacco (the best in the world) and sugar-canes, out of which are made rum and molasses. In this side is *Havana* (196,000), the capital, on the north coast, the largest town in the West Indies, with a fine harbour, from which sugar is exported. The rest of the island grows coffee, potatoes, indigo, rice, and fruits.

Coal, copper, lead, and a little gold, are found in the island.

## HAYTI OR SAN DOMINGO.

We have already spoken of *Jamaica*, which lies to the south of Cuba, so we shall at once pass on to

*Hayti*, separated from Cuba by the Windward Channel. Hayti was the first island settled by Columbus, and very soon after the colonization the native Indians were all exterminated, and their places filled by negroes imported from Africa. French pirates thronged these western seas during the seventeenth century, and the Spanish power being too weak to suppress them, the island was partly ceded to France in 1697, and completely so in 1795, when the negroes were given their freedom. In 1805 the celebrated Toussaint l'Ouverture, a negro, organized a rebellion, which ended in the French yoke being shaken off.

The island is now divided into two states. In the west is the republic of *Hayti*, organized 1859, peopled with savage and cruel negroes, containing the town of *Port-au-Prince* (20,000), which exports campeachywood, tobacco, cocoa, and coffee. The remainder of the island consists of the mulatto republic of *San Domingo*, organized 1866, whose chief town is *San Domingo*, on the south.

The population of Hayti is 800,000.

The coast of *Hayti* is broken into two long promontories, with a deep bay between them. The rest of the island is divided into tablelands, covered chiefly with tobacco plantations, and mountain ranges, of which the highest peak is nearly 9,700 feet. Most of these mountains are of crystalline limestone, and one of them has recently been discovered to contain an enormous quantity of *magnetic ironstone*. Some lakes are scattered over the island, and many rivers.

The minerals are coal, copper, iron, and a little gold.

## PUERTO RICO.

The only other island remaining to Spain is *Puerto Rico*, east of San Domingo, ninety miles long by thirty-six broad. It contains a range of palm-crowned hills, averaging 1,600 feet, but rising in places to 4,000. In the plains are cattle farms or "estancias," sugar, coffee, and tobacco plantations; while the minerals obtained from the rocks are similar to those of Cuba. The climate is healthy, and the population amounts to 866,000, 300,000 of these being negroes. *San Juan* (25,000), the chief town, on the north coast, has a fine harbour. Puerto Rico is governed in the same manner as Cuba.

## ST. THOMAS.

East of Puerto Rico are the *Virgin* group (Danish), among which is *St. Thomas*, a bare and rocky island, subject to hurricanes and earthquakes, a place of stoppage for European steamers.

*Santa Cruz*, also Danish, lies to the south.

Several small and unimportant islands are situated to the east, included (with the Virgin group) in the *Leeward* Islands. Among these *Anguilla*, *Barbuda*, *Antigua*, *St. Kitts*, *Montserrat*, and one or two others, are British; *St. Martins*, and a few smaller ones, are Dutch; and *St. Bartholomews* has lately been ceded by the Swedes to the French.

Among the *Windward* Islands, stretching to the south, the most northerly is *Guadalupe* (French), a large island, with a population of 122,000. It is divided into two promontories, connected by a narrow isthmus, the western one high and volcanic and well wooded; the eastern one of limestone, with a rich soil

and a rainfall of 292 inches. Sweet potatoes, pine-apples, and other tropical fruits grow abundantly.

*Marie Galante* (French) is south of Guadalupe, and beyond that is the British island of *Dominica*.

*Martinique*, another French island, is very picturesque and fertile.

The remaining islands, *St. Lucia*, *St. Vincent*, *Barbadoes*, the *Grenada* group, *Tobago*, and *Trinidad*, are all British.

## CHAPTER V.

### SOUTH AMERICA.

THE great continent of South America is joined to the north by the Isthmus of Darien or Panama, a narrow neck of land forty-eight miles across, belonging politically to the United States of Columbia. The continent broadens out till it reaches lat. 4° S., after which it narrows to the southern extremity. Down the western or Pacific side is the great wall of the Andes, composed of granite, clay slate, crystalline and volcanic rocks, with a large proportion of limestone and sandstone, and yielding every sort of metal, and many precious stones. The Andes, which are highest in Bolivia, and gradually decrease towards the south, are divided into two parallel chains, with many active volcanoes, and are crossed by elevated tablelands and valleys. The streams on the Pacific slope are of course very short and few; but on the eastern side of the Andes are the sources of some of the largest rivers in the world. The chief of these is the Amazon system, whose tributaries, and those of the Parana, water the

plain, forest-covered in the north, and grassy in the south, that extends at the base of the Andes the whole length of South America. Beyond this plain (except along the Amazon valley, and in the extreme south) are tablelands, crossed in various directions by mountains, and watered by many huge rivers. Among these are the tributaries to the Orinoco, the rivers of Guiana, the Tapajos, the Xinga, and the Tocantins, tributaries of the Amazon, and the San Francisco and the Parana.

### Climature.

In the countries bordering the Andes the tropical heat is modified in a great degree by the elevation ; but the low plains of the east are very hot, and the rainfall is generally heavy.

### UNITED STATES OF COLUMBIA.

*The United States of Columbia* (or New Granada), which occupies the whole of the north-west corner, including the Isthmus of Darien, was discovered by Ojeda in 1499, declared a separate Spanish viceroyalty in 1775, and an independent republic in 1819. It is divided into nine provinces, each of which has its own governor, and is represented at a congress, with a president at the head. The Republic is bounded on the north by the Caribbean Sea, on the east by Venezuela, on the south by Ecuador, and on the west by the Pacific. The land gradually rises from the plains of the Orinoco, on the east, towards the Andes, which occupy the centre and west, and are here split up into three chains, the central one with a peak of 18,000 feet, with a navigable river running between each. These rivers are the Maddalena, the Cauco, and the

Atrato, which drain narrow, hot, thickly-wooded valleys before they empty themselves through a belt of low ground into the Caribbean Sea. East of the Maddalena, near the coast, is the detached range of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, with a summit of 16,000 feet.

### 1. Climate.

Although the climate of the valleys is damp and hot, that of the higher lands and mountains is pleasant and temperate. The rainfall is heavy in the mountains.

### 2. Productions.

The produce of the Republic is that of most of the American tropics. Palms, mahogany, bread-fruit, india-rubber, and Peruvian bark are all found in the forests; while on the plains tobacco, coffee, cotton, and indigo are cultivated, and along the marshes are lilies and other water-plants. The mountains yield gold, iron, silver, copper, emeralds, and other precious stones, while platinum exists in the Atrato valley, and salt in that of the Maddalena.

### 3. Animals.

On the plains or "llanos" of the east (llano is the Spanish word for plain) roam herds of oxen and horses. The woods teem with monkeys and brilliant birds and parrots, and alligators haunt the streams.

### 4. People.

The inhabitants of the United States of Columbia number 3,224,000, and are composed of men of Spanish descent, and of the aboriginal Chibcha Indians, most of whom have adopted Christianity.

### 5. Towns.

*Bogota* (45,000), the capital, is in the centre of the Republic, on a plain 8,600 feet high, with coal and salt-beds in its neighbourhood. Near it is the celebrated cascade of Tequendama, with a fall of 580 feet. In the adjacent mountains emeralds are quarried. *Cartagena* (18,000), on the north coast, has a fine harbour.

A railway, forty-eight miles long, across the fever-haunted Isthmus of Panama is of great use in the exchange of European and Asiatic goods.

### ECUADOR.

*Ecuador*, or "Equator," so called because the imaginary line of the equator runs through it, formed part of the powerful and highly-civilized empire of the Incas at the time that the Spaniards entered America. In 1812 it shook off the Spanish yoke after a hard fight, but remained part of Columbia till 1831, when it became independent. It is a republic, with a president elected every four years, and a congress. It is divided into ten provinces.

### 1. People.

The inhabitants on the Amazon plains on the east are Indians. *Mestizoes*, or half-caste Spaniards and Indians, and pure-bred Spaniards, dwell among the mountains. They number in all 1,100,000.

The Andes of Ecuador contain some of the highest summits of the whole range, and the largest number of volcanoes in any of the South American States. The mountains rise from the high tableland, on which Quito, the capital, is built, into peaks, varying from 16,000 to 21,000 feet, and among these we may

mention *Chimborazo* (21,400), the volcanoes of *Antisana* (19,100) and *Cotopaxi* (18,800), made of pumice-stone, with a cone 6,000 feet high. From the road leading from Quito to the town of Riobamba, on the south, no less than fifty volcanoes may be counted. Forests and grassy plains, watered by the tributaries of the Amazon, stretch away to the east.

### 2. Productions.

The mountain valleys are fertile, and according to the elevation produce wheat, barley, maize, and potatoes, which will grow as high as 13,000 feet. On the lower grounds are cinchona (for quinine) oranges, bananas, sugar-canes, cocoa-palms, and tree-ferns; while llamas and sheep wander about the plains of the Andes, and cattle, mules, and horses on those of the east.

### 3. Towns.

*Quito* (70,000), the capital, only fourteen miles south of the equator, lies on a plain more than 9,000 feet above the sea, thus having a cool climate in spite of its latitude. The country round is bare, and the soil unfavourable to cultivation, though the inhabitants are well provided with fruits from more fertile regions. The people of Quito are almost entirely Mestizoes. *Guayaquil* (20,000) is a seaport built on a gulf of the Pacific, and has a very fine harbour. It is surrounded by cocoa groves and rich vegetation, and exports the produce of the interior. Near *Cuenca* (20,000), on the south, are mineral springs.

Silver, gold, zinc, and copper are all found in Ecuador.

The *Galapago* (or "Turtle") *Islands* (0° 30' S. lat.,

91° 10' W. long.), belong to Ecuador. They are the craters of extinct volcanoes, and afford shelter for pirates, but have no fixed inhabitants. They contain many birds and animals unknown elsewhere—tortoises, turtles, and many reptiles, besides quantities of wild cattle and asses. The vegetable world yields fig-trees, oranges, pears, plums, cotton, and tobacco.

#### PERU.

South of Ecuador is the famous republic of *Peru*, bounded on the west by the Pacific, and on the east by Bolivia and Brazil. A high plain borders the coast, cleft here and there by fertile river valleys; and above the plain the Andes rise abruptly, giving place on the east to a bare plateau, from 10,000 to 14,000 feet in height, called “*punas*,” and lower still to the vast plains and forests that characterize the Amazon basin. Large lakes are scattered about this part of the Andes, and the interior of Peru is drained by the Marañon, the head stream of the Amazon, and by the Ucayali, another tributary.

##### 1. Climate.

A large part of the coast of Peru belongs to one of the so-called “rainless regions” of the world. This arises from several causes. 1. The Atlantic winds blowing down the Amazon valley are arrested by the Andes, and rain falling in torrents helps to form the numerous rivers of the country. 2. The prevailing winds on the Pacific shore blow away from the coast, and do not bring any moisture. 3. Where the coast is low the light vapours arising from the Pacific float away at a great height till they reach the colder regions of the Andes, where they fall in snow, which is per-

petual at 16,000 feet. 4. In the south is a low coast range from 1,000 to 3,000 feet high, which intercepts any clouds that might be blowing in this direction. Moisture is supplied by a heavy fog called *garua*, which appears from June to November, and affords to the scanty vegetation the only relief against the great heat.

## 2. People and History.

The history and conquest of Peru are no less interesting than the history and conquest of Mexico. Long before the tenth century the country was occupied by a civilized race, dwelling chiefly among the high tablelands of the Andes, where they built magnificent cities and temples. It was probably early in the eleventh century that another race, known as the *Incas*, entered Peru from the south, established an empire, founded the city of Cuzco among the mountains, and conquered a huge extent of territory to the north and south. The Incas were not, however, content with merely conquering. They had splendid temples, a gorgeous ceremonial, and great cleverness in agriculture and engineering, and when the Spaniards under Pizarro entered Peru, early in the sixteenth century, and obtained at first an easy victory in consequence of the rivalry between the Inca Atahualpa and his brother Huascar, they carried off enormous spoil. The Incas, in spite of their first submission, revolted again, and their cause was helped by the strife between Pizarro and his lieutenant Almagro. After five years' struggle Almagro was executed, and Peru conquered, and finally made a vice-royalty of Spain. The country remained Spanish till, in 1821, after several years hard fighting, it declared itself a republic. It is now governed by a

president (elected every four years) and a council, and is divided into twenty-one provinces.

The population (3,000,000) is mixed, consisting of *Quichua* and *Aymara* Indians, a few descendants of the Incas, Spaniards, negroes, and half-castes. There is also a race of wild Indians in the interior.

### 3. Productions.

Silver is extracted in immense quantities from the mountains round Pasco, and quicksilver from various parts, also gold and copper. Nitre is one of the chief articles of export. One great source of wealth in the country is the inexhaustible supplies of guano (or the deposit of birds) on the islands and rocks off the coast, which is highly valuable for manure.

Among the animals are the vicuna, valued for its wool; the alpaca, which is used for all manner of purposes; the guanaco, resembling a camel, which is found among the Andes as far south as Patagonia. Besides these there are llamas, oxen, mules, and sheep.

### 4. Towns.

*Lima* (160,000), the capital, founded by Pizarro in 1534, is near the coast, at the foot of the Andes, and on a small river called the Romac. It has a fine cathedral, good schools, and some gardens; but water is scarce on this side of the Andes, and earthquakes frequent, and Lima has been repeatedly destroyed. *Callao*, its port on the Pacific, six miles distant, is swarming with Chinese and coolies. It exports silver, nitre, guano, and wool. *Pasco*, among the Andes, at an elevation of 16,000 feet, is famous for its silver mines. In a valley a little to the north is the head

stream of the Amazon, called here by its other name, the Marañon, and the whole of the little-known east side abounds in rivers. In a bleak tableland, 11,000 feet high, between two of these rivers, the Vilcamayo and the Apurrimac, is the old Inca capital of *Cuzco* (30,000), now changed into a modern, uninteresting place, where it rains perpetually. To the south, on the borders of Bolivia, 12,000 feet high, is the beautiful lake Titicaca, and the produce of this region is exported from *Arica*, on the Pacific.

#### BOLIVIA.

*Bolivia*, or Upper Peru, as it was formerly called, gets its name from Simon Bolivar, who was the chief instrument in freeing the South American States in the early part of this century. Bolivia is of great extent, and lies between Peru, Brazil, and the Argentine Republic. It has only a small strip of coast, and beyond the Andes rises a lake-covered plateau, with the range known as the Cordillera Real on its eastern side. Spurs are thrown out on all directions, till the country sinks, in the south-east, to the swampy plain called the Gran Chaco, with dense forests of palms, creepers, and all manner of tropical plants, watered by the tributaries of the Paraguay, and plentiful periodical rains. By far the greater part of the country, however, lies within the Amazon basin. The Rio Grande, an important branch of the Madeira, rises among the Cordilleras, and the source of the Beni is at the foot of Ilimani (24,000), east of Lake Titicaca. North of Ilimani is *Nevada de Sorata* (25,000), the highest mountain in South America.

The warm, rich country of the interior, with impenetrable forests, is known as the Yungas.

### 1. People.

The south of Bolivia, along the basin of the Pilcomayo, is inhabited by wild Indians. In the north and east, in the Amazon basin, are the half-civilized *Chiquito* and *Moxos* Indians. The comparatively civilized *Aymara* and *Quichua* Indians (whose language is almost universally spoken) dwell among the high plateaus of the Andes, and the remainder of the 2,325,000 inhabitants are Spaniards and half-castes of various kinds.

### 2. History.

Bolivia was included in the Inca Empire till the Spanish conquest. In 1780 the people rose to shake off the always oppressive Spanish yoke, but were in two years reduced to obedience, and the last Inca was exterminated. In 1809 Bolivia and Peru rebelled again, and in 1825 were finally declared free. Since that time, however, the state of the country has been very unsettled.

The president of Bolivia is elected every four years, and is assisted by the congress, every man in the country having the right to vote. There are nine provinces.

### 3. Climate.

The east of Bolivia is very hot, and lies within the region of periodical rains. Rain is also plentiful in the Andes; but here the temperature varies with the elevations.

### 4. Productions.

In the Yungas coffee, gum trees, sarsaparilla, spices, cinchona, pineapples, tree-ferns, tobacco, sugar-canes, and rice (in the clearings), and endless numbers of tropical plants grow in profusion.

Nitre is obtained from the coast, and gold, copper, tin, and silver from the rocks.

In the grassy pastures of the south (bordering the Argentine Republic) are herds of cattle; while the alpaca, vicuna, llama, and chinchilla live in the tablelands, and a huge vulture-like bird, called the condor, is seen hovering over the highest peaks.

### 5. Towns.

*Chuquisaca* (24,000), or Sucre, so called from the general who obtained the crowning victory of independence in 1824, is the capital of Bolivia, and is on a plain 10,000 feet high. At the foot of the great silver mountain Cerro de Potosi is *Potosi* (23,000), once famous for its silver mines, and far to the north of it is *Cochabamba* (40,000), with a fine climate. It is inhabited chiefly by Indians, and is the market for the mining towns. *La Paz* (76,000), on the Beni, south of Titicaca, at the foot of Illimani, is an Indian town, with a large home trade in tropical fruits, and an export trade in cinchona bark, from which quinine is made.

### CHILI.

The Republic of *Chili* is the long strip of country enclosed between the Andes and the Pacific, and stretching down to the Straits of Magellan, which separate Terra del Fuego from the mainland. Part of this island, and part of Patagonia, have recently been added to Chili. A low coast range borders the Pacific, and beyond this is a plateau, backed by the granite, crystalline, and volcanic peaks of the great Andes, most famous of which is the summit of *Aconcagua* (22,400). In the north the desert of

*Atacama* is a rainless and unproductive waste agriculturally; but yields an enormous amount of gold, copper, silver, iron, cobalt, lead, and other minerals. South of this the temperature becomes colder, owing to the winds that blow from the South Pole; the clouds fall in rain, and the soil becomes richer. Here maize, wheat, barley, potatoes, and fruits are cultivated. Another source of wealth in Chili are the herds of cattle and horses that feed on the lower slopes, and on the plains of Patagonia.

The pines covering the mountains are of a different kind to those of the north, and are called *araucarias*. The south coast of Chili is broken into islands, and contains dense forests of evergreen trees.

### 1. People.

The south of Chili is peopled by Indians or *Araucanians*, while the rest of the country is inhabited by half-caste Spaniards and Indians, or *Mestizoes*, and a few Spaniards. The Chilians are less fiery and more industrious than most South American nations.

### 2. History.

Chili, when first known to the Spaniards in the sixteenth century, was part of the empire of the Incas. It was partially conquered by Pizarro in 1535, but a war was carried on between the *Araucanians* and the Spaniards till 1722, when the southern provinces were abandoned to the former. The remainder of the country was ruled by Spanish viceroys till 1810, when the war of independence began; but it was not declared independent till 1818. Chili is divided into eighteen provinces, and is governed by a president

(elected every five years), a senate, and a chamber of deputies.

The population is over 2,000,000.

### 3. Climate.

The climate of Chili is much colder and rainier than that of Bolivia, the rainfall at Valdivia reaching 120 inches. In the neighbourhood of the line of volcanoes that run down the coast the towns are frequently destroyed by earthquakes.

### 4. Towns.

*Santiago* (130,000), the capital, founded in 1541, is a handsome town built on a tableland among the high Andes, with a tall porphyry hill in its centre. It is subject to earthquakes, which have more than once destroyed the whole town, and most of the buildings are therefore low, and easy to be replaced. A railway joins it to the south, and also to *Valparaiso* (97,000), built on a steep hill overlooking the Pacific. *Valparaiso* has a large export trade, especially in grain. A pass 12,800 feet high leads over the Andes into the Argentine Republic; but all these passes in the Andes are rugged and difficult to scale.

Three hundred and sixty miles from the coast are the small group of islands, one of which, *Juan Fernandez*, has become famous as the place where Alexander Selkirk, the original Robinson Crusoe, spent many years.

### TIERRA DEL FUEGO.

The "Land of Fire" at the southern extremity of America, was discovered in 1520 by the explorer Magellan, a Portuguese, who had entered the service of Spain.

It is the centre of an archipelago, which has a bitter climate of continued fog, snow, and rain, except in a few sheltered valleys. The interior of Tierra del Fuego is high and undulating, and the shores are fringed with mountains, culminating in the south-west in Mount Sarmiento, nearly 7,000 feet high. The north is barren, but pine woods grow in the south and west, and fuchsias and laurels in the warmer parts. Horses and cattle graze in the interior.

#### People.

The inhabitants, who number about 4,000, are tall and strong, like the Patagonians, with dark red skins.

Cape Horn is on a small island off the coast.

The *Falkland Islands*, a British dependency already noticed, lie 240 miles east of Tierra del Fuego.

The island of *South Georgia*, also a British possession, is in 54° S. lat. 36° 30' W. long.

#### THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, INCLUDING PART OF PATAGONIA.

In making our way northwards along the mainland, we should pass through a bare cold country, descending in sharp terraces from the Andes, till it ends in a low belt on the shores of the Atlantic. A few rivers rise up in the Andes, often in large lakes, and flow through deep beds towards the east; but the climate is so severe that the rivers are frozen the whole winter, and the country is thickly covered with snow. Here the only animals are the skunk, puma, guanaco, and the ostriches, which are hunted by the *Teheluches*, a very tall, strong, red-skinned nomad Indian people in the south of Patagonia. Along the deep river valleys, however, grain can be cultivated, and sheep and cattle reared. Further

north, along the mountain slopes, the landscape becomes more fertile; strawberries, currants, yellow violets, and azaleas are to be met with in profusion, and water fowl are to be seen in the rivers, although eastwards the tablelands, or "pampas," as they are called here, are as dreary as ever. North of the Chupat, a large river rising among the Andes, which are here about 8,000 feet high, is a belt of fertile well-watered country, with calceolarias and creepers blossoming on the hills; but soon broad, high salt-covered plains make their appearance, and last till the Rio Negro is reached. The Negro forms the boundary between *Patagonia*, or the Colonial Territory of Magellan, as it is sometimes called, inhabited in the north by the Manzanas Indians, and the *Argentine Republic*. Crossing the river, which is 900 miles long, we enter a country entirely occupied for several hundreds of miles by grassy, flowery plains, or pampas, on which graze immense herds of cattle, horses, and sheep. The pampas extend on the north to the central metal-yielding ranges of the Sierra de Cordova and San Luis. The swampy province of Buenos Ayres, south of the La Plata, is covered with lakes. Here the soil is alluvial, and very fertile. In the clay lying beneath it great fossil animals have been discovered.

#### Basins of the Paraná and Paraguay.

The greater part of the Argentine Republic lies within the Paraná basin, whose main source is in Brazil. It enters Argentine soil west of Paraguay, and, bounding this republic on the south, receives the river Paraguay. The Paraguay also rises in Brazil, in the Siete Lagunas (or "Seven Lakes"), some small hills in lat. 13°. It receives many streams on its left bank,

and bounds on the east the low palms and mimosa-covered district of Chaco, haunted by wild beasts between Bolivia and the Argentine Republic. Flowing south it is joined by the Pilcomayo (or "Sparrow") river (950 miles long), rising in Bolivia, under Potosi, and the Vermejo, or Red River (600 miles long), both draining the Gran Chaco. After its junction with the Paraná, after a course of 1,400 miles, the river flows through the grassy pampas. It is swelled by numerous tributaries, that rise in the Andes, and make their way through the gradually falling country to the Paraná. Along their courses are rich fruits, trees, and flowers. At the head of the broad estuary, one of the widest in the world, in which the Paraná ends its course of 2,300 miles, the river Uruguay discharges itself, and the two rivers then take the name of the La Plata, or "Silver."

### 1. Climate.

The climate is temperate and pleasant, and the rainfall slight, being usually only brought by the southwest winds, called "pamperos," which are very violent.

### 2. Productions.

Cattle-breeding is the great occupation of the inhabitants, though along the rivers and on the alluvial plains of the coast grain and fruits grow luxuriantly. Petroleum wells are found along the river Vermejo, and in the mountains are precious stones of various kinds, copper, silver, jasper, marble, and coal. The chief exports, however, are hides, tallow, and bones.

### 3. People.

We have already noticed the populations of the south of the republic. Those of the northern pampas,

who are cattle-breeders, are called *Guachos*, and are descendants of the old Spaniards and Indians. The people of the towns are Spaniards, Germans, and other Europeans. They are generally well educated. The population is nearly 1,800,000.

#### 4. History.

The Spaniards entered the La Plata in 1516, and in 1527 Cabot arrived and penetrated into the interior. Then came other explorers, and allotments were made throughout the country. Governments were established at Asuncion, and Buenos Ayres 1620. In 1776 the latter city was declared capital of a viceroyalty, with jurisdiction over the Spanish possessions south of Bolivia. In 1813, after three years of provisional government, while Spain was in confusion, a dictator was elected, and the republic became independent, though it was not acknowledged by Spain till 1842.

The present constitution dates from 1853, and is executed by a president (elected every six years by the fourteen provinces) and a national congress.

#### 5. Towns.

*Cordova* (17,000), on the edge of the mountains, is the second city of the republic, and has an observatory. On the Paraná are *Santa Fé* and *Rosario*, the cattle-market of the interior; and above Buenos Ayres is the beautiful Tiger Island, with its thick groves of peaches. *Buenos Ayres* (178,000), the capital, is built on the plain on the south side of the estuary, where the sea is so shallow that ships cannot approach within twelve miles.

## PARAGUAY.

The republic of Paraguay is bounded on the west by the river Paraguay, on the north by Brazil, on the east and south by the Paraná. In the centre is a range of hills stretching southwards, which rise from a fertile tableland, descending on the west to fertile pampas or llanos and alluvial plains; while the eastern slopes or terraces are densely covered with forests. In the south there is a low, marshy region, where rice is grown.

The *climate* resembles that of the north of the Argentine Republic, and is very healthy.

## 1. Productions.

Besides rice, timber, indigo, coffee, corn, cocoa, and a little tobacco, the chief production of Paraguay is the tea called *matè*, made of the leaves of a kind of *ilex*.

## 2. History.

The original inhabitants were the Guarani Indians, a quiet, gentle people, who were taught and trained by the Jesuit missionaries. When the South American states separated, the government of Paraguay fell into the hands of Dr. Francia, who declined all communication with the other states. An attempt on the part of one of his successors, Solano Lopez, to reverse his policy ended in a bloody war, which resulted in giving Paraguay a constitution. The laws were to be made by a senate and chamber of deputies, and to be carried out by a president. The country is, however, continually disturbed by revolutions. The population is estimated at 293,000.

The language of the towns is Spanish, that of the country Guarani.

### 3. Towns.

*Asuncion* (48,000), on the Paraguay, at its junction with the Pilcomayo, is the capital. It trades in maté, sugar, and tobacco. The only other large town is *Villa Rica* (25,000), in the centre, which trades in tobacco and fruit.

### URUGUAY.

A wedge of land belonging to the Argentine Republic divides Paraguay from *Uruguay*, or *Banda Oriental*. This lies in the basin of the river Uruguay, which rises in one of the Brazilian coast ranges, and the country is bounded on the south by the estuary of the La Plata. The land is high, except along the coast and the Paraguay valley, and consists almost entirely of pampas, where enormous herds of oxen, sheep, and horses are reared by the inhabitants. These pampas are covered with *estancias* or cattle farms, and meat-preserving is the principal industry of the people. Hides, tallow, horns, and meat are largely exported.

The *climate* is pleasant and healthy. The rainfall is greatest on the coasts, and in the Uruguay valley. The total length of the river is 1,100 miles.

### 1. History.

Like the other republics, Uruguay was Spanish till the present century, and formed, for the last thirty-three years of its possession by Spain, part of the viceroyalty of Buenos Ayres. It is governed by a president, and has excellent laws.

The population numbers 438,000.

### 2. Towns.

*Paysandu*, on the Uruguay, exports the preserved tongues, to which it gives its name. *Monte Video*

(44,000), in the south, on the La Plata, is built on a hill overhanging the sea, and has a fine harbour. It exports the produce of the interior, and imports iron and cotton goods.

## BRAZIL.

The immense empire of Brazil, which occupies nearly as much territory as continental Europe, may be divided into the vast wooded district drained by the Amazon, and the tablelands and high ranges of the centre and west. The most easterly of these ranges extends from south lat.  $22^{\circ}$  to  $30^{\circ}$ , and is known by many names. The average height is about 4,000 or 5,000 feet; but in the south the mountains reach nearly 10,000 feet. North of these coast ranges the mountains take a more inland direction, and on their eastern slopes rise the rivers that flow through the plateau and low belt that fringes the greater part of Brazil in the Atlantic. The San Francisco (with a length of 1,530 miles, 920 of which are navigable) has its source at the foot of Mount Itacolumi, on the south of the range, and flows northwards through a tableland, draining the rich mining district of Minas Geraos. In this region diamonds, gold, quicksilver, iron, copper, lead, arsenic, salt, platinum, topazes, and amethysts are found in abundance. A lower chain bounds the San Francisco basin on the south and west, and forms the watershed for the head streams of the Paraná (called here the Parahyba) and for that of the Tocantins, which unites with the Araguay and falls into the Atlantic under the name of Parà. East of the Tocantins the mountains take a horse-shoe curve, and enclose the low country of the province of Piahy, drained by another Parahyba.

The Brazilian tableland is divided into two by the mountains, which have a jagged course from east to west till they reach the Atlantic. They form the watershed for the great rivers flowing north into the Amazon, and those flowing south into the Paraguay and Paraná. The Paraguay, which drains the south-west corner, rises up in the diamond district of the Siete Lagunas, and flows along the Bolivian frontier, and the whole of the south-east of Brazil is watered by the rivers rising in the coast ranges, and emptying themselves into the Paraná. The basin of the Amazon occupies the whole of North Brazil, and drains the low, wet, densely-wooded plains or "selvas," abounding in birds, insects, reptiles, pumas, and jaguars. The principal tributaries on the right bank are the Peruvian Ucayali, the Purus, rising also in the Andes, and flowing through Bolivia, the Madeira, whose source is near Cochabamba in Bolivia, and the Tapajos and Xingu, which rise north of the central Brazilian chain. On the left bank are the Putumayo, the Japura, and the Negro, rising in Columbia, and one or two smaller rivers that come down from the mountains of Guiana. The lower part of the course of the Amazon (whose length is 3,750 miles) is through bare sandy plains, which give way, as we approach the delta, to rich black soil and forests. The Amazon falls into the Atlantic at the equator.

#### 1. Climate.

The climate of the coast is extremely wet, the rainfall amounting in Pernambuco to 106 inches. The Sierras keep the tableland comparatively dry, but the Amazon valley is subject to perpetual rain. Here, under the equator, the heat is great, while along the

coast it is moderated by south-east trade winds. In spite of the yellow fever that prevails among the low lands, the Brazilian climate is on the whole pleasant and healthy. The greater part of the country has a dry season and a wet season.

## 2. Productions.

No country in the world has a greater variety of produce than Brazil. The forests along the Amazon and in the river valleys of the centre and south yield all manner of valuable timber, dyewoods, and gums. Of these we may mention the native cocoa tree, india-rubber (or caoutchouc), rosewood, cedar, palms, bread-fruit tree, cinchona, and sago. Besides these are Brazil nuts, nutmegs, sarsaparilla, pineapples, melons, plantains, yams, vanilla, spices, guavas, bananas, cashew nuts, cassava, melons, tobacco, tree-ferns, coffee, cotton, and rice; while in the cleared lands of the south are large plantations of indigo, maize, wheat, sugar, cocoa, and tobacco. Along the pampas large tracts are overgrown by dense patches of coarse thistles.

## 3. Minerals.

The minerals are chiefly found among the crystalline mountains of the centre and east, which yield gold, copper, tin, iron, diamonds, beryls, garnets, rubies, and emeralds; quicksilver is obtained from Paraná and Rio Janeiro; and gold, arsenic, bismuth, and antimony from various parts.

## 4. Birds and Animals.

Macaws, parrots, humming birds, toucans, orioles, vultures, eagles, and a sort of fleet ostrich are the principal birds.

In the forests are jaguars, pumas, monkeys, tapirs, and ant-eaters ; while in the treeless plains of the south-west roam vast herds of wild oxen, horses, and sheep. In the south especially sheep seem likely to thrive and multiply.

Fish, turtles, alligators, and the oil-yielding manatee swarm in the rivers.

### 5. People.

The population of Brazil, which consists of 11,108,000, is composed (1) of wild Indians of various tribes, many of which are *Guarànís*. These tribes, though speaking different dialects, yet possess a language understood by all. They are tall, strong, brown, and often good-looking. (2) Of civilized Indians, living mainly in the north, but scattered over the whole country. (3) Of the imported negroes, who are allowed to buy their freedom for a small sum. (4) Of the half-castes. (5) Of the Europeans, consisting principally of Portuguese and Germans.

### 6. History and Government.

Brazil was discovered in 1499 by Pinçon, a friend and companion of Columbus ; but he made no attempt at colonization. In the following year Cabral sailed for Brazil, and a short time after Amerigo Vespucci, who established a small settlement. Gradually private settlers came, and grants, or "captaincies," with right of jurisdiction, were given to the new colonists. From 1578 to 1640 Brazil passed, with Portugal, under the Spanish yoke, and during this period the Dutch and English tried to colonize the country. In 1640, when a Portuguese nobleman was raised to the throne of

Portugal, Brazil shared the fortunes of the mother country, of which it remained part till the war of 1808, when the Prince Regent and Queen Maria I. fled across the seas for refuge. In 1823 the independence of Brazil was declared, and the Prince Regent, then John VI. of Portugal, was chosen emperor. A Constitution was framed in the following year. The present emperor, Pedro II., is grandson of John VI.

Brazil is a limited monarchy, consisting of an emperor, with a legislative assembly divided into two chambers. There is also a ministry.

#### 7. Towns.

Few capital cities have a more beautiful situation than that of Brazil. *Rio Janeiro* (420,000) is built on the west of a bay surrounded by jagged granite mountains, still partially covered with tropical trees. It has a large export and import trade. On the slopes of the *Sierra de Espinhaço* are the mining towns of *Ouro Preto* and *Diamantina*, which, as their names betoken, are the centre of the gold and diamond fields. There is also another *Diamantina* in the province of *Matteo Grosso*. Almost all the important towns are, however, on the coast, and the first one that we reach on sailing northwards from *Rio Janeiro* is *Bahia* (120,000), or *San Salvador*, the seat of an archbishopric, built round a fine bay, whence are exported rum, sugar, and cotton. It is unfortunately unhealthy, and subject to fever. *Pernambuco*, or *Recife* (90,000), on the shores of the Atlantic, where the continent is at its broadest, is the third city of Brazil, and near it is the University of Olunda. *San Luis de Maranhão* (40,000) is the market for this region; and *Parà*, on the east of

the large estuary, exports the india-rubber grown in the interior and brought down the Tocantins. *Maranhão* has a rainfall of 280 inches annually.

Timber, coffee, precious stones, tobacco, and sugar are the chief Brazilian exports.

#### GUIANA.

The region known as *Guiana* is the territory included between Venezuela, the Sierra Acarai and the Sierra Tumucuraque, and the Atlantic. It is now divided into British, French, and Dutch Guiana. British Guiana we have already considered, so we will pass on at once to the other two. Dutch and French Guiana are both low and well watered by rivers, that flow straight from the mountains to the sea through dense forests. The shore is very low, and the soil is rich.

##### 1. Climate.

The climate is very hot and unhealthy in the lower grounds, and the rainfall on the coast very heavy, amounting at Paramaribo to 142 inches.

##### 2. Productions.

The forest trees, which resemble those of Brazil, are cut down for export, and are easily carried down the rivers. One of the most useful among them is the milk-tree, whose sap is very wholesome. Coffee and cotton are cultivated, but the chief article of trade is sugar. Red pepper is grown at Cayenne, in French Guiana. French Guiana likewise possesses some gold mines. The birds, reptiles, and fishes also resemble those of Brazil.

### 3. People.

The people of the interior are mostly Carib Indians, while the rest are either Chinese coolies or free negroes, with a few white settlers.

The population of French Guiana is 32,000, that of Dutch Guiana 69,000.

### 4. History.

The explorer Nuñez landed in Guiana in 1504, and the Dutch made their first settlement in 1580, and their example was soon afterwards followed by the French and English; but the Dutch proved too strong for the new-comers, and in less than a hundred years covered the ground now occupied by all three colonies. In the course of the next hundred years they changed hands more than once, but in 1815 Dutch Guiana was settled within its present limits.

*French Guiana.* The French first entered Guiana in 1626, and colonized Cayenne four years later. They made many other attempts at settlement, all of which proved very unfortunate. The country was invaded by the Portuguese and English in 1809, but was restored by treaty to the French in 1814.

### 5. Towns.

*French Guiana* is separated from Brazil by the Oyapok, and from Dutch Guiana by the Moroni. *Cayenne* (8,000), the chief town, and a convict settlement, is on a small river on the coast. It is even more unhealthy than most of these places.

*Dutch Guiana* is bounded on the west by the Corentyn, which divides it from British Guiana. The

river Surinam flows through the centre ; and on this, a few miles from the mouth, is *Paramaribo* (25,000), the chief town.

#### VENEZUELA.

*Venezuela*, or "Little Venice," lies between Columbia on the west, Brazil on the south, and the Caribbean Sea on the north.

Towards the Columbian frontier the Gulf of Venezuela is extended into the interior by the Lake of Maracaybo. East of it, is the Sierra Merida (15,000 feet), connected by a plateau with the coast range, on whose northern slopes are magnificent forests of huge trees, while the south side descends in gentle plains to the Orinoco. In the well-watered valleys grow sugar, indigo, tobacco, and cocoa. The river Orinoco rises in the mountains of Parimé on the south, but receives many streams, whose sources are in the Columbian Andes. These rivers, among which are the Guaviare, the Meta, and the Apure, flow through llanos or plains, some bare, supporting great herds of oxen, sheep, and horses, and some covered with dense groves of palms or thickets of mimosa. The grasses of the llanos are very varied, those of the Apure being specially nourishing. The country drained by the tributaries on the right bank is high, with mountain chains rising above the plateau. Among the tablelands are splendid waterfalls, where the streams leap from sheer precipices to gain the lower ground. After its junction with the Apure the Orinoco turns east, and flows (at the base of the high country) through a flat plain, with forests increasing in thickness and beauty as we approach the delta, which spreads over a great

distance. The coast is broken into promontories and islands. The course of the Orinoco is 1,550 miles.

### 1. Climate.

Except in the low, hot, wet valleys bordering the coast, the climate of Venezuela is healthy, and in the high lands of the interior temperate. It is hottest in April and May, and coldest in January and December. The rainfall at Caraccas, on the coast, is 155 inches.

### 2. Productions.

The forests yield mahogany and all kinds of medicinal trees ; maize, cotton, vanilla, indigo, and coffee grow in the cooler districts ; sugar and cacao in the hot valleys of the north.

Gold is found in the mountains, and copper is obtained from the north-west.

### 3. People.

The people of the interior are all Carib Indians, and those in the towns are Europeans.

The population is 1,784,000.

### 4. History.

Venezuela was discovered by Vespucci and Ojeda in 1499, and was called by them "Little Venice" on account of the resemblance of the villages, built on piles round Lake Maracaybo, to the Italian city. After a long war of independence with the Spaniards, the freedom of Venezuela was proclaimed in 1821, and for nine years it was united with Ecuador and Columbia. All three republics are now separate.

Venezuela is governed by a president, elected every four years ; a senate representing the provinces, and a house of representatives representing the people.

### 5. Towns.

*Caraccas* (47,000), the capital, is 3,000 feet above the sea, and is a well-built town with a fine climate, but is subject to earthquakes. It is the seat of a bishopric ; for Venezuela, like all the rest of the Spanish republics, and Brazil, belongs, of course, to the Roman Catholic Church. *Maracaybo* (25,000), west of the lake, has an extensive home and foreign trade.

# INDEX

	Page		Page
Abyssinia ...	650, 659, 664	Altyn Dagh Range ...	624
Acheen ...	638	Amazon, River, 722, 723, 730,	
Aconcagua ...	732	741, 742.	
Acre ...	564, 569	Ambriz ...	669
Admiralty Group ...	644	Amboyna ...	640
Admiralty Isles ...	644	Amour, River, 551, 594, 601,	
Afghanistan, 552, 575, 580, 582		609, 619.	
— Productions of ...	583	Anatolia ...	554
— People of ...	584	Andes, 722, 723, 725, 729, 732,	
— History of ...	584	734, 737.	
Ægean, Sea ...	553, 556	Angara, River ...	599
Akhabah, Gulf of ...	660	Angola ...	556, 557, 669
Alabama, River ...	693	Annam, or Cochin China, 608,	
— State ...	693	633.	
Alaska ...	675, 676, 708, 709	— People of ...	634
Alashan Mountains ...	621	— Productions of ...	364
Alatan Mountains ...	590	Anguilla ...	721
Albany ...	688, 708	Antananarivo ...	672
Albert Nyanza, Lake, 650, 659,		Antioch ...	568
666.		Antigua ...	721
Aldan, River ...	600, 601	Antisana ...	726
Aleppo ...	568	Anti-Lebanon ...	564
Alexandria ...	660	Anti-Taurus ...	554
Algeria ...	650, 652	Appalachian Mountains, 676,	
— Productions of ...	652	684, 686, 691, 700.	
— People of ...	652	Apure, River ...	748
Algiers ...	653	Apurrimac ...	730
Alleghanies, 686, 689, 690, 693		Arabia ...	570
Alleghany, River ...	689, 698	— People of ...	572
Altai ...	598, 609, 623	— History of ...	574
Altai Range ...	551, 593, 594	Aral, Sea of, 551, 588, 591, 593	
Altamaha, River ...	692	Aram Islands ...	640

	Page		Page
Araguay, River ...	741	Bangweolo, Lake ...	66,
Ararat ...	560	Banda Sea ...	631
Aras, River ...	559	Bantam ...	639
Arbela ...	563	Barabinska Steppe ..	597
Argentine Republic ...	734	Barbadoes ...	722
— Productions of ...	736	Barbary States ...	655
— History of ...	738	Barbuda ...	721
Argun, River ...	601	Barca ...	654
Arizona ...	705	Barnaul ...	598
Arkansas, River... 700,	701	Bashee Islands ...	642
— State ...	701	Bassorah ...	564
Armenia, History of ...	560	Batavia ...	639
— Productions of ...	562	Bedouins ...	570
Aru Islands ...	639	Behring Straits ...	708, 709
Asia Minor, 553, 554, 555, 556,		Beloochistan ...	575, 580, 581
557, 558.		Benghazi ...	654
— Exports of ...	556	Beni, River ...	730, 732
— People of ...	556	Benguela ...	670
— History of ...	556, 557	Beyrout ...	569
Asiatic Turkey ...	553	Bhamo ...	630
Ashantee ...	657	Biafra, Bight of... ..	658
Assyria ...	563	Billiton ...	638
Asuncion ...	740	Binne, River ...	658
Atacama ...	733	Bithynia ...	554, 556, 557
Atlanta ...	692	Bitter Root Mountains ...	707
Atlas Mountains ...	650	Biwa, Lake ...	607
Atrato, River ...	724	Black Cañon ...	705
Austral Islands ...	645	Black Sea ...	553
Ava ...	630	Blanco, Cape ...	656
Ayuthia ...	632	Blomfontein ...	669
		Blue Ridge Mountains, 690,	691
Baalbec ...	568	Bogota ...	725
Babylon ...	563	Bokhara ...	582, 587, 588, 589
Badakshan ...	585	Boisé City ...	707
Bagdad ...	563	Bolivia ...	730
Baghirmi ...	658	— History of ...	731
Bahia ...	745	— Productions of ...	731
Bahrein, Island of ...	571	Bona ...	653
Baikal, Lake ...	551, 599, 600	Bona, Cape ...	650
Bali ...	639	Bonin Island ...	608
Balkh ...	585	Borneo ...	641
Balkash, Lake ...	551, 592	Bornu ...	658
Baltimore ...	690	Boston ...	685
Bambarra ...	657	Brahmapootra, River, 552,	626
Banca ...	638	Brazil ...	741
Bangkok ...	632	— Productions of ...	743

	Page		Page
Brazil, History of ...	744	Cayenne ...	746, 747
Brazos, River ...	703	Celebes ...	637, 640
Brooklyn ...	688	Chattahoochee, River ...	692
Bruni ...	641	Champlain, Lake ...	685
Brusa ...	556, 558	Chapala, Lake ...	710
Buffalo ...	688	Charleston ...	692
Buenos Ayres ...	738	Chattanooga ...	700
Bunker's Hill ...	686	Chesapeake Bay ...	689, 690
Burkhan Buddha Range, ...	609,	Cheyenne ...	696
615, 621.		Chicago ...	695
Burlington ...	685	Chili ...	732
Burmah ...	608, 626, 627	— History of ...	733
— Productions of ...	627	Chimborazo ...	726
— People of ...	629	China, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612	
— History of ...	629	— Productions of ...	612
Bushire ...	580	— History of ...	613
		— Provinces of ...	615
Cabes, Gulf of ...	654	Chippewa, River ...	694
Cairo ...	660	Choo Kiang, or Canton River,	
California ...	705	610.	
— Lower ...	713	Chuquisaca, or Sucre ...	732
Callao ...	729	Chupat, River ...	736
Cambodia ...	635	Cilicia ...	554, 555, 556, 558
— People ...	636	Cincinnati ...	699
Cameroon Mountains ...	658	Clarke, River ...	707
Campeche ...	714	Cleveland ...	699
Canadian, River ...	703	Coanza, River ...	670
Canary Isles ...	650	Coast Range ...	706
Canton ...	616	Cochabamba ...	732
Cape Cod ...	685	Cochin China, Lower ...	636
Cappadocia ...	554, 557	Coele, Syria ...	565
Caraccas ...	749, 750	Colorado, State ...	700
Caria ...	554	— River ...	703, 704, 705
Caribbean Sea ...	717	Columbia, District of ...	690
Carmel ...	565, 569	— River ...	707
Carmen Island ...	713	Columbus ...	699
Caroline Islands ...	643	Comayagua ...	716
Carolina, North... ..	691, 692	Comoro Isles ...	672
— South ...	691, 692	Congo, River ...	650, 666, 670
Cartagena ...	725	— State ...	670
Carthage ...	654	Connecticut, River ...	684, 685
Cascade Range ...	708	— State ...	686
Caspian Sea, 551, 575, 576, 588		Constantine ...	653
Catskill Mountains ...	688	Coomassie ...	657
Caucasus Range... ..	552	Coosa, River ...	693
Cauco, River ...	723	Coral Islands ...	644

	Page		Page
Cordova ...	738	Erie, Lake, 677, 688, 689, 695,	
Corentyn, River ...	747	698, 699.	
Corrington ...	699	Euphrates, River, 552, 559, 560,	
Costa Rica ...	714, 715, 717	563, 564.	
Coteau du Grand Bois ...	693		
Cotopaxi ...	726	Falkland Islands ...	735
Cuba ...	718, 719	Fars ...	575
Cuenca ...	726	Fayoum ...	660
Cumberland, Mountains ...	699	Fernando Po ...	658
— River ...	700	Fez ...	651
Cuzco ...	730	Fiji Islands ...	644
		Florida ...	691, 692
Dahomey ...	657	Floris ...	639
Dakota ...	696	Formosa ...	610, 617
Damascus ...	565, 566, 568	Fort Sumter ...	692
Damietta ...	660	Fort Yuma ...	705
Darfur ...	658, 659	Friendly Islands ...	645
Dead Sea ...	565	Frio, Cape ...	669
Delagoa Bay ...	650, 668	Fundy, Bay of ...	684
Delaware Bay ...	688, 689	Fusijama ...	603, 607
— River ...	688, 689		
— State ...	689	Galapago Islands ...	726
Delgado, Cape ...	665, 668	Galatia ...	554
Demavend ...	575	Galilee, Sea of ...	565
Dembea, Lake ...	664	Gallas ...	665
Denver ...	701	Galveston ...	704
Des Moines ...	696	Gambia, River ...	656
— River ...	696	Gambier Islands ...	645
Detroit ...	694	Gando ...	658
Diamantina ...	745	Gasconade, River ...	697
Dilolo, Lake ...	667	Georgia ...	691, 692
Dismal Swamp ...	690	Ghazni ...	586
Dominica ...	722	Gila, River ...	705
Druses ...	568	Gilolo ...	640
Dubuque ...	696	Girin ...	620
		Gobi, Desert of ...	552, 609, 621
Easter Island ...	645	Gold Coast ...	657
Eastern Turkestan ...	609, 623	Gondar ...	664
Ecuador ...	725	Granada ...	717
Egypt ...	649, 659	Gran Chaco ...	730, 737
— Productions of ...	661	Grand, River ...	694
— People of ...	661	Great Salt Lake... ..	705
Erzeroum ...	559, 563	Great Wall ...	621
Ekaterinburg ...	597	Greeks 554, 555, 556, 558, 559	
Elburz Range ...	552, 575, 579	Grenada ...	722
Ephesus ...	558	Guadalajara ...	713

# INDEX.

755

	Page		Page
Guadalupe ...	718, 721	Ilmani ...	730
Guardafui, Cape ...	650, 665	Illinois State ...	695
Guatemala ...	714, 716	Independent Turkestan ...	587
Guaviare, River ...	748	— People of ...	587
Guayaquil ...	726	India ...	553, 608
Guiana ...	746	Indiana ...	699
— British ...	746	Indian Ocean ...	649
— Dutch ...	747	Indian Territory ...	701
— French ...	747	Indianapolis ...	699
		Indus, River ...	552
Hadramaut ...	570, 572	In-shan Range ...	621
Hai-phong ...	635	Ionia ...	554
Hainan ...	610, 616	Iowa ...	696
Hakodate ...	606	Irawadi, River, 552, 609, 626,	
Halys, River ...	554	627, 630.	
Hamun Swamp ...	582	Irkutsk ...	599
Hankow ...	616	Irtish, River ...	597
Hasa ...	570, 571	Ispahan ...	579
Hatteras, Cape ...	692	Issik-kul, Lake ...	592
Havana ...	719	Itacolumi, Mount ...	741
Hayti, or San Domingo, 719,		Iztaccihuatl ...	709
720.			
Hejaz ...	570, 572	Jackson ...	702
Height of Land... ..	676, 685	James River ...	690
Helmund, River ...	582, 586	Japan ...	603
Herat ...	582, 585, 586	— History of ...	605
Heri-rood, River ...	582, 586	— Productions of ...	604
Hermon ...	564	— Sea of ...	603
Hervey Islands ...	645	Japura, River ...	742
Himalaya Range ...	552, 609	Java ...	638
Hindoo Koosh Range, 583, 587,		Jaxartes, River ...	590, 591, 692
609 .		Jedo, or Yedo ...	603, 607
Hiogo ...	607	Jefferson ...	698
Hoangho, River, 552, 609, 610,		Jersey City ...	688
611, 612.		Jerusalem ...	570
Hondo ...	603, 604, 607	Joppa ...	569
Honduras ...	714, 716	Jordan, River ...	565, 566
Hudson, River ...	687	Juan de Fuca Straits ...	708
Hué ...	634	Juan Fernandez I. ...	734
Humboldt, River ...	707	Juba, River ...	665
— Mountains ...	707		
Hunan ...	612	Kabul ...	582, 583, 585, 516
		— River ...	582
Ida ...	554, 558	Kafir Kingdoms... ..	668
Idaho ...	707	Kalgan ...	621
Ili, River ...	592, 623	Kalahari Desert ...	669

	Page		Page
Kanawha, River	698	Ladrone Islands	642
Kandahar	585, 586	Lafayette	699
Kansas City	697	Lansing	694
— River	697	La Paz	713, 732
— State	697	La Plata, Estuary, 737, 740, 741	
Karakorum	621	Lassa	626
Karakoram Range	552, 609, 625	Leavenworth	697
Kashgar	625	Lebanon Range	564
Katanga	667	Lena, River	551, 600, 601
Kedron, River	570	Leon	717
Kei Islands	640	Lexington	690
Kelat	581	— (Kentucky)	699
Kerulen, River	601	Liao-ho, River	619
Kenia	666	Liao-tung, Gulf of	619
Kentucky	699	Liberia	657
Kormadec Islands	645	Lima	729
Khamschatka	552, 602, 603	Limpopo, River	668
Khartoum	659	Lincoln	697
Khe-lun-tsyau	619	Little Rock	701
Khingau Range	601, 609, 619	Loango	670
Khiva	587, 588, 589	Lob-nor, Lake	609, 624
Khokand	592	Lokinga Mountains	670
Khorassan	575	Lombok	639
Khotan	625	Long Island	688
Kiakhta	599	Loo Choo Islands	603, 607
Kilimanjaro	650, 666	Louisiana	702
Kioto	607	Low Archipelago	645
Kirghis Steppes	593	Loyalty Isles	644
Kirman	575	Lualaba, River	666, 670
Kishon, River	565	Luzon	642
Kiung	618	Lycaonia	554
Kiushiu	603, 607	Lycia	554, 555, 557
Koh-i-baba Range	582, 585, 586	Lydia	554, 557
Kokonor, Lake	621		
Kong Range	657	Macao	617
Kordofan	659	Macassar	640
Korea	618	Madagascar	650, 671
— People of	618	— Productions of	671
— Productions of	618	Maddalena, River	723
Kosgol, Lake, 551, 598, 599, 620, 623.		Madeira, River	730, 742
Kuen Lun Range, 552, 609, 621, 624, 625.		Madison	694
Kuldja	623	Magadoxo	665
Kurdistan	560, 562, 575, 579	Magdala	664
Kurile Isles	602, 603	Magellan, Straits of	732
		Maine	684, 685
		Malacca, Siamese	632

# INDEX.

757

	Page		Page
Malay Archipelago	... 637	Milwaukee	... 694
— Peninsula	... 552	Minas Geraos	... 741
Mandalay	... 630	Minnesota, State	677, 693
Manilla	... 642	— River	... 694
Mansarowar, Lake	... 626	Mississippi, River,	677, 693,
Mantchuria	610, 619	694, 695, 698, 699, 701,	
Maracaybo	... 750	702, 703.	
— Lake of	748, 749	— State	... 702
Maranon	727, 730	Missouri, River,	677, 695, 696,
Marie Galante	... 722	697, 698.	
Marquesas Islands	... 645	— State	... 697
Marshall Archipelago	... 643	Moab	... 565
Martha's Vineyard	... 685	Mobile	... 693
Martinique	... 722	Mocha	... 572
Masina	... 657	Mœris, Lake	660, 661
Massachusetts	684, 685	Mohawk, River	... 688
Matabele	... 667	Moluccas	... 639
Matteo Grosso	... 745	Mongolia, 553, 598, 601, 619, 620	
Maryland	... 690	— People of	... 621
Mecca	... 572	Monongahela, River	... 689
Medina	... 572	Montana	... 695
Mediterranean	650, 651, 659	Montgomery	... 693
— Sea	553, 564	Monte Video	... 740
Meinam, River	630, 631, 632	Montserrat	... 721
Mekhong, River, 552, 609, 626, 636.		Morocco	650, 652
Melanesia	... 643	— People of	... 651
Memphis	660, 700	Moroni, River	... 747
Merced, River	... 706	Mosquito Coast	... 717
Merida	... 714	Mosul	... 563
Merquinez	... 651	Mount Shasta	... 705
Merv	... 589	Mount Whitney	... 705
Meshed	... 579	Mozambique	... 668
Mesopotamia	... 559	— Channel	650, 667
— History of	... 561	Muddy Salt Mine	... 707
— People of	561, 562	Mukden	... 620
— Productions of	... 562	Muscat	... 573
Meta, River	... 748	Mysia	... 554
Mexico	675, 709	Nagasaki	... 607
— Gulf of	693, 702, 703	Nankiang	... 616
— Productions of	... 710	Nanling Mountains	... 610
— People and history of	711	Nantucket	... 685
— Town	... 713	Nashville	... 700
Michigan, Lake	677, 694, 695	Natchez	... 702
— State	... 694	Natuna Group	... 638
Micronesia	... 642	Navigator's Islands	... 645

	Page		Page
Nejd ...	571	Orizaba ...	709
Nevada ...	707	Orontes, River ...	564, 565, 568
Nevada de Sorata ...	780	Osage, River ...	697, 698
New Almaden ...	706	Osaka ...	607
Newark ...	689	Oural Mountains, 593, 594, 595, 597.	
New Bedford ...	686	Ourga ...	621
New Britain ...	644	Ouro Preto ...	745
New Caledonia ...	644	Oxus, River, 582, 585, 587, 588, 589.	
New England ...	684	Oyapok, River ...	747
New Hampshire ...	684, 685	Ozark Mountains ...	697
New Hebrides ...	644		
New Ireland ...	644	Palestine ...	564, 565, 566
New Jersey ...	688	Pamir Plateau, 585, 587, 588, 608.	
New Mexico ...	704	Pamphylia ...	554
New Orleans ...	703	Panama, Isthmus of, 722, 725	
Newport ...	686	Paphlagonia ...	554
New York ...	686, 687, 688	Papua ...	643
Nganking ...	616	Parà ...	741, 745
Niagara Falls ...	688	Paraguay Republic ...	739
Nicaragua 714, 715, 716, 717		— Productions of ...	739
Niger, River, 650, 656, 657, 658		— River 730, 736, 741, 742	
Nile, River 649, 650, 660, 661		— Treaty of ...	739
Nineveh ...	563	Paramaribo ...	746, 748
Niphon ...	603	Paraná, River, 722, 736, 737, 741, 742.	
North Red River ...	693	Paranahyba ...	741
Nubia ...	660, 661	— River ...	741
Nueces, River ...	704	Parimé, Mountains of ...	748
Niigata ...	607	Pasco ...	729
Numidia ...	652	Patagonia ...	735, 736
Nyassa, Lake ...	650, 666, 667	Patkoi Hills ...	628
		Paysandu ...	740
Obi, River ...	551, 597, 598	Pearl River ...	702
Ohio, River 695, 698, 699, 700		Pechili ...	612, 615
— State ...	698	— Gulf of ...	610
Okhotsk, Sea of ...	602, 603	Pei-ho River ...	615
Olympus ...	554, 558	Pei-kiang River ...	616
Om, River ...	597	Peking ...	610, 615
Omaha ...	697	Peling Range ...	610, 611
Oman ...	570, 571	Pennsylvania ...	689
Omsk ...	597	Penobscot, River ...	685
Ontario, Lake ...	677, 688	Pernambuco ...	745
Oran ...	653		
Orange Free State ...	669		
— River ...	650, 669		
Oregon ...	707		
Orinoco, River ...	723, 748		

# INDEX.

759

	Page		Page
Persia ...	575	Rio Grande ...	730
— History of ...	577	Rio Grande del Norte ...	704
— People of ...	577	Rio Janeiro ...	745
— Productions of ...	576	Rio Negro ...	736, 742
— Province of ...	579	Rio Pecos ...	704
Peru ...	727	Riou Islands ...	638
— History of ...	728	Rocky Mountains, 675, 695,	
— Productions of ...	729	700, 707.	
Philadelphia ...	689	Rosetta ...	660
Philippine Islands ...	642	Ruyuma, River ...	668
Philistia ...	565		
Phrygia ...	554	Sacramento, River ...	706
Piahy ...	741	Saghalien ...	602, 603
Putumayo ...	742	Sahara, 649, 651, 655, 656, 659	
Pilcomayo, River ...	737	Saigon ...	637
Pinaleno Range ...	705	Salinas, River ...	706
Pisidia ...	554	Saline, River ...	697
Pitcairn Island ...	645	Salt Lake City ...	705
Pittsburg ...	689	Salwen, River ...	626, 627
Platte, River ...	696	Samarcand ...	592
Polynesia ...	645	Samaria ...	565
Pontchartrain, Lake ...	702	San Antonio, River ...	704
Pontus ...	554, 557	Sandwich Islands ...	645
Popocatepetl ...	709	San Francisco ...	706
Port-au-Prince ...	720	— River ...	723, 741
Port Said ...	660	Sangamon, River ...	695
Potomac, River ...	690	San Joaquin, River ...	706
Potosi ...	732	San Luis de Maranhao ...	745
Puebla ...	713	San Salvador ...	714, 716
Puget Sound ...	708	Sant' Aña ...	704
Puerto Rico ...	718, 719, 721	Santa Cruz ...	721
Purus, River ...	742	— Isles ...	644
		Santa Fè ...	704, 738
Queddah ...	633	Santiago ...	734
Queen Charlotte Isles ...	644	Santee, River ...	692
Quelpart ...	619	Saratoga ...	688
Quetta ...	581	Sarawak ...	641
Quito ...	725, 726	Sardis ...	558
		Satsuma ...	607
Raleigh ...	692	Savannah, River ...	692
Red River ...	702, 703	Sayansk Mountains ...	598, 609
Red Sea ...	650, 660	Scamander, River ...	558
Republican, River ...	697	Schuykill, River ...	689
Rhode Island ...	686	Scutari ...	558
Rhodes ...	558, 559	Sebu, River ...	651
Richmond ...	690	Sei-kiang, River ...	616

	Page		Page
Seistan, Lake ...	582, 586	Song-ka, River ...	634
Selenga, River ...	599	Soudan, 650, 665, 666, 667, 668	668
Semeroc, Mount ...	639	Sourhays ...	658
Senaar ...	659	South Georgia Island ...	735
Senegal, River ...	650, 656	Spartel, Cape ...	651
Sfax ...	654	Springfield ...	695
Shanghai ...	616	Stanovoi Range ...	600
Shansi ...	612, 615	St. Augustine ...	692
Shan-yan-alin Range ...	619	St. Bartholomew ...	721
Shari, River ...	650, 656	St. Francis, River ...	697
Sharon ...	564, 565, 569	St. John, River ...	684
Shensi ...	612, 615	St. Kitts ...	721
Shikoku ...	604, 605	St. Lawrence, River ...	677, 695
Shilka, River ...	601	St. Louis ...	698
Shimeeyu, River ...	659	St. Lucia ...	722
Shinano ...	603	St. Martin ...	721
Shiraz ...	579	St. Paul ...	694
Shirwa, Lake ...	667	St. Paul de Loanda ...	669
Shoa ...	664	St. Thomas ...	721
Siam ...	552, 553, 608, 630	St. Vincent ...	722
— People of ...	631	Suahelis ...	665
Siberia ...	552, 553, 593	Suez ...	660
— Productions of ...	595	— Isthmus of ...	649
— People of ...	596	Suleiman Mountains ...	582
Sidon ...	569	Sumatra ...	638
Sierra Acarai ...	746	Sumbawa ...	639
Sierra de Espinhaço ...	745	Sunda Straits ...	638
Sierra Leone ...	657	Sungari, River ...	619
Sierra Madre ...	709	Superior, Lake ...	677, 694
Sierra Merida ...	748	Surinam, River ...	748
Sierra Nevada ...	675, 705	Susquehannah, River ...	689
Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, 724.		Syria ...	563, 564
Sierra Tumucuraque ...	746	— Produce of ...	566
Siete Lagunas ...	736, 742	— History of ...	566, 567
Sinai ...	570, 660	Szchuen ...	612, 616
Sittoung, River ...	627		
Smoky Hill Fork, River ...	697	Tabriz ...	579
Smyrna ...	558	Tadmor ...	568, 569
Snake, River ...	707, 708	Tahiti ...	645
Society Islands ...	645	Tallahassee ...	692
Socotra ...	672	Tallapoosa, River ...	693
Sofala ...	668	Tamatave ...	672
Sokoto ...	658	Tanganyika, Lake, 650, 666, 667	667
Solomon Isles ...	644	Tangier ...	651
Somalis ...	665	Tapajos, River ...	723, 742

# INDEX.

761

	Page		Page
Tarim, River ...	609, 624	Turkestan ...	553
Tartary, Gulf of ...	531	— History of ...	591
Tashkend ...	592	— Russian ...	590
Taurus Range ...	554, 555, 556	Tyre ...	565, 569
Tchad, Lake ...	650, 657	Ucayali, River ...	721, 742
Teheran ...	579	Udong ...	636
Tejend, River ...	582	United States of America, ...	677
Tel-el-Kebir ...	660	— History of ...	681
Tennessee, River ...	693, 700	— People of ...	680
— State ...	700	— Productions of ...	678
Tete ...	668	United States of Columbia, ...	722, 723.
Texas ...	703	— Productions of ...	724
Tezcuco ...	713	Urua ...	667
Thebes ...	660	Urumiah, Lake ...	575, 579
Thian Shan Range, ...	551, 587, 590, 608, 609, 623.	Urumsai ...	625
Tibet ...	552, 553, 609, 625	Uruguay Republic ...	740
Tientsin ...	615	— River ...	737, 740
Tierra del Fuego ...	675, 734	Ust-Urt Plateau ...	593
Tigris, River ...	552, 563	Usuri, River ...	601
Timbuctoo ...	657	Utah ...	704
Timor ...	639	— Lake ...	705
Titicaca, Lake ...	730	Vaal, River ...	669
Tobago ...	722	Valparaiso ...	734
Tobolsk ...	597	Van, Lake ...	560, 563
Tocantins, River, ...	723, 741, 746	Venezuela ...	743
Toledo ...	699	— History of ...	749
Toluca ...	709	— Productions of ...	749
Tom, River ...	598	Vera Cruz ...	713
Tomsk ...	597, 598	Verkhoianskoi Chain ...	601
Tonquin ...	634	Vermejo, River ...	737
— Gulf of ...	617	Vermont ...	684, 685
Topeka ...	697	Vicksburg ...	702
Toulé Sap ...	631, 635	Victoria Nyanza, Lake, ...	650, 659, 665, 666.
Trebizond ...	554, 563	Vilcamayo ...	730
Trenton ...	689	Virginia ...	690
Trinidad ...	722	— City of ...	695
Tripoli ...	654	Virgin Islands ...	726
Troy ...	558	Vitim, River ...	600, 601
Truxillo ...	716	Vladivostok ...	602
Tucson ...	705	Volcano Islands ...	642
Tunghai ...	603	Volta, River ...	657
Tunguska, River ...	599	Vostochni, Cape ...	602
Tunis ...	650, 653		
— People of ...	654		
— Productions of ...	654		

	Page		Page
Wabash, River ...	695, 699	Yarkand ...	623
Wadai ...	658	Yedo, or Tokio ...	607
Wasatch Mountains ...	705	Yellow Sea ...	608, 610
Washington ...	690	Yellowstone, River ...	695
— Territory ...	707, 708	Yemen ...	570, 571, 572
Washita, River ...	701	Yenesei, River, 551, 594, 595,	
West India Islands ...	717	598, 599.	
West Virginia ...	698	Yezo 603, 604, 605, 606	
Wheeling ...	698	Yokohama ...	607
White, River ...	699	Yosemite Valley ...	706
Williamette, River ...	708	Yucatan ...	710, 713
Wilmington ...	689	Yukon, River ...	676, 708
Wisconsin, River ...	694	Yungas ...	780, 781
— State ...	694	Yunling Range ...	552, 609, 631
Wyoming ...	696	Yunnan ...	610, 612, 616
Xingu, River ...	723, 742	Zab, River ...	563
Yablonoi Range... 551, 600, 601		Zaisan, Lake ...	597
Yakutsk ...	600	Zambesi, River ...	650, 667, 668
Yang-tse-kiang, River, 552, 609,		Zanzibar ...	665
610, 611, 616, 256.		Zarafshan, River ...	589, 592
		Zion, Mount ...	570
		Zungaria ...	623



	Page		
Wabash, River ...	695, 699	Yarkand ...	...
Wadai ...	658	Yedo, or Tokio ...	...
Wasatch Mountains ...	705	Yellow Sea ...	608,
Washington ...	690	Yellowstone, River ...	...
— Territory ...	707, 708	Yemen ...	570, 571,
Washita, River ...	701	Yenesei, River, 551, 594,	1
West India Islands ...	717	598, 599.	
West Virginia ...	698	Yezo ...	603, 604, 605,
Wheeling ...	698	Yokohama ...	...
White, River ...	699	Yosemite Valley ...	...
Williamette, River ...	708	Yucatan ...	710,
Wilmington ...	689	Yukon, River ...	676,
Wisconsin, River ...	694	Yungas ...	780,
— State ...	694	Yunling Range ...	552, 609,
Wyoming ...	696	Yunnan ...	610, 612,
Xingu, River ...	723, 742	Zab, River ...	...
Yablonoi Range... 551, 600, 601		Zaisan, Lake ...	...
Yakutsk ...	600	Zambesi, River ...	650, 667,
Yang-tse-kiang, River, 552, 609,		Zanzibar ...	...
610, 611, 616, 256.		Zarafshan, River ...	589,
		Zion, Mount ...	...
		Zungaria ...	...







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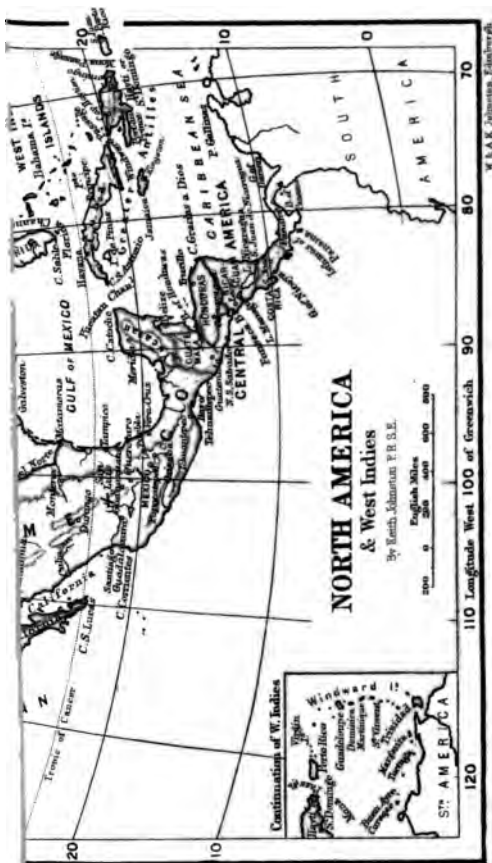
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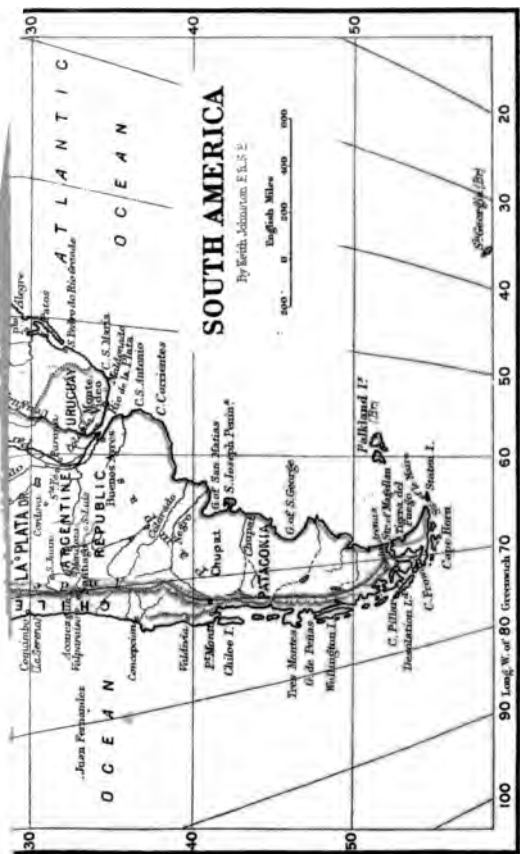
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